



Building an Interoperable Statewide Digital Ecosystem

IMS Global 2022 Learning Impact Award Finalist

CHALLENGE:

As a government agency serving 780,000+ students across 79 K-12 public school districts and 1,220+ schools, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) aims to ensure that all South Carolina public school students graduate prepared for success. In 2020, SCDE set out to address the issue of uneven distribution of learning resources across the state by building a statewide digital learning ecosystem to provide teachers and students throughout South Carolina with instant access to a wealth of curated, standards-aligned content. To distribute high-quality instructional materials to all 79 districts, SCDE needed a scalable, cloud-based learning object repository which would integrate with each district's own digital environment. The team knew it would need to work with a variety of partners and platforms to meet this daunting challenge, meaning interoperability would be critical.

SOLUTION:

Under the guidance of Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman, SCDE committed to building an integrated digital learning ecosystem based on IMS Global interoperability standards. To achieve this goal, SCDE sponsored IMS affiliate membership and the adoption of a standards-based LMS for every district while developing an interoperable statewide learning object repository called Instruction Hub. Powered by SAFARI Montage LOR Cloud, Instruction Hub integrates seamlessly with each district's existing digital environment and enables SCDE to manage all state resources and ingest, curate and create new content for automated distribution to 1,220+ schools. All districts are able to assure access to secure content-aligned learning applications via the TrustEd Apps dashboard, and SCDE team members are actively collaborating with IMS community members via the CASE Network while developing state academic standards in CASE format along with a CASE-enabled course coding system.

OUTCOME/RETURN ON INVESTMENT:

Since launching in November of 2020, Instruction Hub has been implemented in 99% of South Carolina schools, and the response from district staff, teachers, and students has been very positive. The platform makes it easy to find content from a wide range of publishers, including standards-aligned learning objects from SAFARI Montage, Discovery Education, Math Nation and South Carolina ETV, and share resources and playlists via the district's LMS, whether Canvas, Schoology, Blackboard, Google Classroom, or Microsoft Teams. Instruction Hub allows SCDE to curate & distribute standards-aligned resources statewide while also allowing flexibility, so districts and schools can use the resources within the learning platforms they are using every day, providing consistency for teachers and students. By working together with technology and content partners and the IMS community, SCDE has built a strong digital foundation to support high quality teaching and learning in South Carolina which will have a positive impact on teachers and students for years to come.