

# PowerSchool Unified Classroom™ Enriches Education by Supporting Mastery Learning



Educators at David Ellis Academy are driven by the school's mission to ensure students master concepts taught in the classroom.

## The Deciding Factor

To help support achievement of this goal, school leaders evaluated solutions used by teachers to facilitate instruction and learning by way of creating common assessments for students to demonstrate their proficiency. After asking the question if adding another solution to their teacher's plates would be beneficial, the decision was made to streamline these processes into one single solution by implementing PowerSchool Unified Classroom.

**Matthew Golusin**, Student Achievement Coach at David Ellis Academy, notes the school provides a variety of support mechanisms for its teachers and classroom activities. **"Launching the Unified Classroom gives our teachers a platform to create assessments, tag assignments to standards, and help shift their focus from managing multiple systems to driving student success,"** said Golusin.



## Backstory

David Ellis Academy is located in Redford, Michigan and serves over 750 students. The school aims to promote, nurture, and encourage academic mastery to inspire lifelong learning in a global society.



### Challenge

Teachers were inundated with managing multiple software systems to support instructional and learning activities in the classroom.



### Decision

PowerSchool  
Unified Classroom™



### Results

Transparent visibility into instruction and student progress to drive student achievement

# Implementing and Educating with Mastery Learning

The implementation process of PowerSchool Unified Classroom was completed in 6-8 weeks. Serving as instructional coach, Golusin worked with teachers at the school to ensure everyone was educated on how to use the solution's features. From weighting grades to breaking down trimesters to adding new assignments, Golusin applied the concept of mastery learning to training school staff on how to navigate through and successfully use PowerSchool Unified Classroom™.

"When you log into the Unified Classroom, the dashboard presented to teachers provides visibility into grades, assignments, and where students are in their learning," said Golusin. **"Teachers are able to look at the type of assignments they're giving and identify which standards to focus on in order to ensure alignment with our curriculum."**

## Demonstrating Mastery to Drive Student Achievement

Mastery learning is applied at David Ellis Academy and used as a standards-based approach in looking for competency within a standard. Teachers use formative assessments to serve as a temperature gauge by identifying where students begin in their learning. The results are evaluated and used to guide lesson planning, where small group instruction may be initiated based on what students require from the formative assessment. The summative assessment is later applied to check where a student's grade for a particular standard might have changed and if they demonstrate mastery.

## Removing Barriers to Achieve Success

The guess work has been removed as a barrier to success in the classroom. **"With PowerSchool Unified Classroom, we have transparent visibility into the instruction taught by our teachers to ensure we're all aligned on the standards we're expected to teach and ultimately have students understand,"** said Golusin.

"As educators, we try to instill in our students that it's okay to make a mistake. The responsibility then falls on us to re-assess students who are struggling and help them master learning by unlocking their potential in meaningful ways. **PowerSchool Unified Classroom helps us do that.**"

**"PowerSchool Unified Classroom is an effective solution that gives our teachers the ability to personalize instruction by going back and re-assessing students on the standards they're struggling with."**

**MATTHEW GOLUSIN**  
Student Achievement Coach  
David Ellis Academy,  
Redford, MI

**At PowerSchool, we believe in the simple truth that every student deserves the best opportunities in life.**

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