



Professional
Development

CUSTOMIZED CONTENT

ON-DEMAND OUTCOMES

Wisconsin Virtual Academies (WVA)

McFarland, WI

An identified school need and course customization resulted in nearly 1000 training session completions in the final quarter of SY2324.





Wisconsin Virtual Academies (WVA) are tuition-free and fully online public schools for students in 4K-12 administered as a non-instrumentality charter school by the McFarland School District. They provide equitable services, practices and resources to meet the diverse needs of all learners, through personalized planning – regardless of location, background, or need. With two decades of operation, school enrollment has exceeded 4,000 students.

- 180 teachers and counselors
- 67% economically disadvantaged
- 29% special education

NEED

Compliance training for teachers is always a challenge – especially when there is a blend of asynchronous, state-provided training coupled with school-based, live sessions. Administrators must facilitate completion of these mandated requirements while balancing the everyday, normal actions of a school. Simply, this professional learning needs a single solution that allows teachers to access the content without minimizing precious planning and instructional time. Understanding this need for balance, the leaders at WVA began to look for a new pathway ahead. They turned to an existing partner – one whom their teachers recognized due to previous experience and one who could understand their school needs.

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SOLUTION

Since teachers were already using Stride Professional Development (Stride PD), WVA requested a meeting in October 2023 to discuss their need. This initial discussion led to a course customization that would be fully implemented in SY2425. Late in January 2024, however, Dr. Sara Cutler identified a more pressing need and asked for an earlier delivery – one that would prepare teachers for state testing. Stride PD leveraged its team, adjusted the timeline, and delivered a course that addressed the school's request.

The school implementation plan rested with Becky Eberhardt, the special programs Academic Administrator, who compiled the material, worked with the instructional designers, and then pushed the training to the teachers. She decided the best approach was to leverage the on-demand professional development inside of protected timeslots. This dedicated time allowed teachers to focus on their primary responsibilities of instruction and academic planning. Teachers appreciated the centralized location of the material and chunked approach allowing for completion over time.

“When they say, ‘by educators and for educators,’ Stride PD means it. Their experience allowed them to quickly catch my vision for the project and turn it into a reality for our teachers.”

– Dr. Sara R. Cutler, Executive Director

“The instructional design team worked closely with me to create the course and then iterate based on team feedback. The final result worked great for our training and data collection needs. The responsiveness was outstanding!”

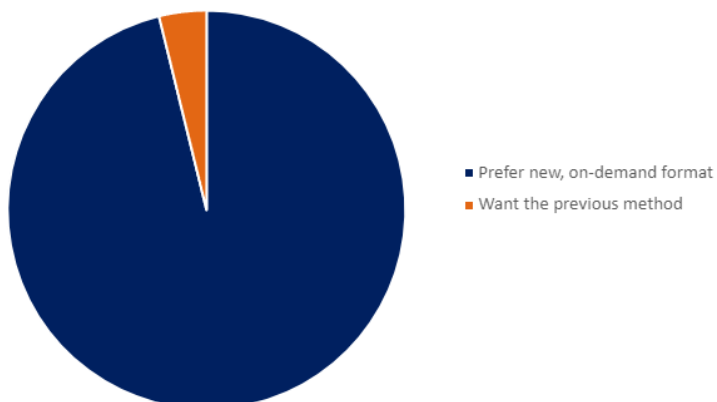
– Becky Eberhardt, Academic Administrator for Special Programs

OUTCOMES

The quick response of modifying the timeline helped the school ensure teachers were prepared for the end of year testing season. This modified experience resulted in the completion of nearly 1000 training sessions, including content refreshers in blood-borne pathogens, de-escalation, medication administration, and others. In polling teachers who completed the training, an overwhelming majority – 96% – indicated they preferred this new, on-demand format.

The success of this initial, customized training has already been replicated. WVA worked with Stride PD to build out a full, on-demand compliance package for their educators. This effort matches the results of recent surveys by Stride PD where only 12% of respondents indicate that teachers and leaders need less on-demand training. For WVA specifically, a multi-module course was successfully launched at the beginning of SY2425 and, in a couple of short weeks, has already seen more than 2700 lesson completions.

Preferred Training Method



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DESTINATIONS CAREER ACADEMY
WISCONSIN VIRTUAL ACADEMY

Give Educators an Edge. Contact us Today!

Re-imagine professional learning for teachers. Our on-demand courses help schools and districts solve teachers' greatest PD challenges including:

Choice.

Too often, teachers don't have a voice in their professional development.

Cost.

Professional development can be expensive.

Timeliness.

Traditional PD doesn't always meet real-time needs.

Relevance.

PD often lacks clear practical application and fails to improve classroom instruction.

With Stride PD's expansive offerings, schools and districts can empower K-12 educators to take charge of their professional learning, strengthen their skills, and fuel student success. We offer teachers flexibility and choice with:

- ✓ 100+ online, on-demand courses
- ✓ Immersive, self-directed learning
- ✓ Expert-curated teaching strategies and resources
- ✓ Learning paths to support your school and district needs
- ✓ National educator network

