

A Softchoice case study

Softchoice and Google bring modern solutions to Bellville ISD





Overview

Sector

Education

Challenges

Technically limited in both organization and capacity, the school district was falling behind other districts when it came to utilizing technology to improve the learning experience of both students and teachers. Required a modern solution that could upgrade services at a price that the board would approve.

Solution

Together with Google, Softchoice was able to bring Bellville ISD onto the cloud and design a solution that integrated student data from multiple sources into a single unified platform, providing real-time insights on student learning.

Bellville Independent School District (Bellville ISD) is a midsized school district operating out of rural Texas, located halfway between Houston and Austin, with over 2300 students registered across a number of schools. A rich culture of history and tradition is a source of pride for those within the district, however those same conservative community values can often make it difficult to be leaders in innovation. Since 2020, the district has put an emphasis on becoming more academically focused and updating the process of learning with 21st century methods.

During the modernization process, leaders from Bellville ISD traveled across several states to learn from other districts, engaged staff and surveyed community members including parents and students on what they want from their local school district. It quickly became apparent that the best way to empower students and educators while cultivating a relative learning experience would require a technical overhaul of the systems in place. Due to the political restraints attached to large technological investments within a small rural conservative community, it was essential that any investment made was not only affordable but transparent in its value to the community.

The value of always learning

Few understand the value of ongoing education better than those who work directly with schools. For Bellville ISD, it was important to not only modernize their systems, but help teachers and students alike integrate into the new programs without disruption.

The creation of learner profiles helped to create and store up-to-date student profiles that teachers across the school district could access and refer to for valuable insights on each student's individual needs. Paired alongside aggregated data and visualization systems, the school district was quickly able to upgrade the information available to its staff members, allowing for an innovative education program that factored in the interests and strengths of individual students into cultivating a relative learning experience.

Beyond just giving the educators tools, Bellville ISD was also to modernize their technology investment for students, going from a single computer lab on every campus to having at least one computer device for every student in every grade from K-12. Rather than just dropping new tech upgrades on unsuspecting team members, Bellville ISD prioritized bringing teachers along through every step of the process to assist with assessing available technologies.

The Softchoice Difference

Bellville ISD was first exposed to Softchoice through Softchoice's collaboration with another nearby school district, Mesquite ISD. The Bellville team was able to see the impact being made at Mesquite, visiting classrooms and talking to teachers impacted by the changes that Softchoice helped put in place. Seeing the difference made there inspired the Bellville team to seek out changes of their own. Despite the similarities, Bellville ISD would still require a unique solution that fit their own needs, and not just a copy of what was delivered to Mesquite – as an example, the large investment made into AI technologies by Mesquite would instantly be rejected by the Bellville community.

After participating in the Catalyst workshop and visioning retreat, Bellville ISD was able to work alongside Softchoice in crafting the best possible solutions for what their community was looking for. The Bellville team credits Softchoice's level of inquisition and openness into making the relationship feel like a true partnership rather than just a sales interaction.

In fact, the partnership formed between Softchoice and Bellville was so successful, that Bellville will become a flagship partner for work on tailored learning. Alongside Softchoice, Bellville will work towards creating a tailored learning platform that expands on the learner profile that benefited so many of their students and staff members. Students across a number of school districts will be able to benefit from tailored learning built around their interests, aptitudes and social development, connecting those students with future education or career opportunities that best suit their growth.

Together, Bellville ISD and Softchoice were able to modernize the school district's systems, invest in technology and build a foundation for helping future students and educators alike reach their full potential.

Softchoice provided value by:

- Offering cloud solutions
- Crafting a unique program that fit Bellville ISD's specific needs
- Being open and collaborative throughout the process
- Showing proof of concept success having worked with other school districts

