

Lancaster School District discovers positive correlation between student engagement and classroom audio system

SCHOOL AUDIT PROMPTS DISTRICT TO REQUIRE CLASSROOM AUDIO

Since Lancaster School District is a K-8 school system, Director of IT Rebecca Cooksey knows that her students have yet to develop optimal listening skills. “Students’ audio processing tracks are not fully developed until they are age 15,” Cooksey says. In addition, approximately 25 percent of the district’s 14,000 students are ELLs and face additional challenges in listening to and processing information presented orally by teachers.

A district-wide technology audit revealed that while some Lancaster classrooms had basic audio systems, many were completely without audio tools to amplify teachers’ voices.

LIGHTSPEED TECHNOLOGIES SOLUTION

Cooksey and her team decided to even the playing field, and it wasn’t long before Redcat Access became the clear solution.

One reason Redcat Access was selected was because of its ease of use, according to Cooksey. “There was not a need for lengthy training or a lengthy pilot because we knew all the teachers would know how to use it.” Because the system is wireless and does not need to be hardwired, teachers could simply open the box and immediately begin to use the Redcat Access panel. Another reason Redcat Access was selected was because of its superior speech intelligibility. Now, all students in the room are able to hear the teacher’s voice clearly, thereby improving comprehension.

It’s not just the students who are happier because of Redcat Access. Teachers have reported experiencing less exhaustion and having more energy throughout the day because they no longer need to strain their voices in order to be heard.

“It is important for ELL students to hear the way teachers pronounce the words and the nuances in their voice.”

*Rebecca Cooksey,
Lancaster School District
Director of IT*



LANCASTER SCHOOL DISTRICT LANCASTER, CA

CHALLENGE

In Lancaster School District, some rooms were equipped with audio systems, and others were not. An audit showed some students were getting a better education simply because they could hear the teacher more clearly.

LIGHTSPEED SOLUTION

Redcat Access Tabletop System



RESULTS

- The system requires little to no teacher training
- Comprehension is improved because all students are able to hear the teacher’s voice clearly
- All students are able to hear the teacher clearly, and therefore get a better education
- Teachers have less voice exhaustion and more energy
- Discipline issues decrease

LOWER DISCIPLINE ISSUES, HIGHER STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

According to Cooksey, an unexpected benefit has been that discipline issues have decreased due to Redcat Access. “Our early Redcat adopters have reported a 20 percent decrease in students getting in trouble. When students can hear, they are more engaged and do not mess around in class as much.”

“We realized it was a great inequity. Some students were getting a better education simply because they could hear their teacher more clearly.”

Rebecca Cooksey

Because of these positive results, Lancaster principals have made use of Redcat Access mandatory in all classrooms.



“Our principals do daily observances, in part to make sure teachers are using the system, because of student feedback we have received. Students say they prefer when their teachers use Redcat Access, because no matter where they sit, they can hear.”

Rebecca Cooksey