



NEO

by CYPHER LEARNING

Adler College

In search of a standard-based LMS

Introduction

Adler College is a private, K12 bilingual school, with almost 350 students previously known as Caguas Military Academy founded in 1975, and acquired by Adler Group, Inc., in 2012. **The new administration wanted to change the scope from a traditional teaching** institution to a technology learning-based institution. During the past 3 years, Adler College has been transformed from a book-based to a standard-based teaching school using the Puerto Rico's Department of Education curriculum standards.

Find out below how Adler College selected NEO as their LMS from this interview with *Dr. Oscar Vázquez Meléndez (Chief Learning Architect)*.

What were the school's challenges before NEO?

At the beginning of the 2015 academic year, we adopted a standard-based curriculum as outlined by the Department of Education of Puerto Rico. Our goal is to be a model for, not only private but public school systems, **to teach and comply with the learning standards of the Department of Education** of Puerto Rico.

The school's transformation and goals required an LMS that could accomplish some key aspects:

- The LMS needed to support a standard-based learning curriculum;
- The LMS could allow the school staff to supervise that teachers were teaching by the standards;
- The LMS could portray that students were learning/meeting each of the standards taught;
- The school could design the curriculum around Units, Weeks, and Days to meet the standards;
- The LMS could allow them to put the "classroom in the hands of the students", giving the students the mobility and portability that they needed.

We strongly believe that learning should not stop after the class bell rings, but it should continue while the student is on the move. **We wanted to create a learning community** made of students, teachers, parents and administrators, all working together to help and support each of our students, in and outside of the classroom.

How did you find a solution?

Prior to NEO we tried other LMSs without success, but none offered a complete solution or the flexibility that would meet our transformation requirements. We tried eCollege and Fronter by Pearson, Sakai, Dokeos, Moodle, CourseSites by Blackboard, considered Schoology for an adoption, and countless open-source options. We even coded our own version. Again, **none of them came close to meeting our list of requirements**.



I personally knew about NEO when it was still EDU 2.0 while doing my research for a previous eLearning project. Since those days, NEO began offering the right tools needed to create the learning environment that we had been wanting to build for the past 20 years. We were able to create a space that allowed us to measure the learning accountability as a result of teachers' activity and students proving that they were mastering the concepts taught. We were also able to build a curriculum design around Units, Weeks and Days that complied with the standards.

NEO allows our administrators to review teacher performance through the use of analytics and other reports. **We have created a learning community involving students, parents, teachers and administrators.** Students can connect from anywhere with any device making their learning experience totally portable and mobile.



What results have you noticed since using NEO?

The Mastery Tool has allowed school administrators to follow up in the compliance of the standards that we wanted to measure. Teachers are more focused on the standards that are selected to be taught. Assessments give us enough data to adjust the learning activities to the standards in order to improve results. Parents are more informed about our curricula strategy and the results of their students' learning.

Overall, we were able to meet the institutional goal of having a tool that would allow us to measure compliance of each standard in a graphical format, that is accessible to all those concerned with the education that we are offering to our students. All this was possible with the Mastery feature found in NEO.

NEO also offers many possibilities to add other tools to their extensive feature set. While other LMSs would respond to requests very slowly or not at all, NEO allow us to make suggestions and recommendations for improvements and adoption. The support staff is very prompt and responsive and helpful to all of our requests.

