

*“PowerSchool – Studio Edition is helping us prepare for the 21st century skills these kids need. Part of that is giving them the flexibility to learn anywhere, anytime,”*

Steven Knight, Instructional Technology Coordinator

### Challenge

Falls Church City Public Schools is a highly performing district that serves nearly 2,000 students in the Washington, DC, metro area. The district has two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Falls Church had the highest graduation rate in 2010 among all school divisions in Virginia, with an on-time graduation rate of 97 percent. The district’s schools have been recognized as schools of excellence by the US Department of Education and the Virginia Department of Education.

Teachers in Falls Church’s middle school and high school had been using the ANGEL® Learning Management Suite to deliver online content to students to supplement the curriculum and provide access to content outside of school. For the 2009–2010 school year, the district selected Pearson’s PowerSchool student information system, and district officials began to look for a solution to be a “one-stop shop” for teacher access to critical tools and student information. Falls Church leaders and teachers were also interested in making student performance more visible to compare against state educational standards in advance of yearly high-stakes assessments. Along with these requirements, the top priority of the district was to ensure the integration of their student information and learning management systems.

### Solution

Falls Church chose to upgrade PowerSchool to PowerSchool – Studio Edition to replace their ANGEL Learning Management Suite. Pearson’s solution offers a single sign-on for teacher access to both PowerTeacher and an integrated course management system, at a price that meets the district’s budget. Pearson worked with the district to migrate the curriculum and digital content from ANGEL so that Falls Church teachers had the online content and tools they needed to start the 2010–2011 school year. “Just being able to start at the ground level and work with the implementation team is great,” says Steven Knight, Instructional Technology Coordinator at one of the district’s schools. “The help doesn’t end after 90 days, and there’s someone we can go directly to for answers. That gives us the confidence we need to make the implementation a success.”

The district also plans to use PowerSchool – Studio Edition to introduce interim benchmark assessments in several core subject areas later this school year and to provide teachers and staff with access to the system’s rich set of analytic tools. Falls Church will use PowerSchool – Studio Edition to help meet student learning needs so that students, teachers, and staff benefit from the new system. PowerSchool – Studio Edition’s assessment solution is highly engaging for today’s students who have grown up in an increasingly stimulating and technology-driven environment. Knight says, “When fully implemented, PowerSchool – Studio Edition will help reduce student achievement gaps. The secret is giving students access at home.” PowerSchool – Studio Edition is the solution Falls Church needed to improve analytic capabilities and student achievement.

# Falls Church City Public Schools – Success Story

## Benefits

Teachers benefitted immediately from the switch to PowerSchool – Studio Edition—they can access their grade book, attendance, and course management system with a single sign-on. Rosters are provided directly from PowerSchool, so teachers do not have to manage and maintain multiple student rosters. The course management system automatically provides students with access to digital curriculum content. In addition, the district looks forward to implementing interim benchmark assessments, which will provide teachers, parents, and students with better visibility into academic progress with the goal of improved student achievement. “PowerSchool – Studio Edition is helping us prepare for the 21st century skills these kids need. Part of that is giving them the flexibility to learn anywhere, anytime,” says Steven Knight.

## About Pearson

Pearson (NYSE: PSO) is the global leader in educational publishing, assessment, information, and services, helping people of all ages to learn. Pearson provides effective and innovative curriculum products in all available media, educational assessment and measurement for students and teachers, student information systems, and teacher professional development and certification programs. Our respected brands include PowerSchool, Chancery SMS, Pearson Inform, Scott Foresman, Prentice Hall, and many others. Our comprehensive offerings help inform targeted instruction and intervention so that every student can achieve success. Pearson’s other primary businesses include the Financial Times Group and the Penguin Group.

For more information about PowerSchool, please visit our website at [www.PearsonSchoolSystems.com](http://www.PearsonSchoolSystems.com), call 877.873.1550, or email us at [pss\\_sales@pearson.com](mailto:pss_sales@pearson.com).