Merrillville Community School Corporation Uses New eLearning Insights to Enhance Student Engagement

MCSC MERRILLVILLE
MERRILLVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

Organization Type:
K-12 Public School

Enrollment:
6,336

Annual Operating Budget:
$57,195,271

Merrillville Community School Corporation is located in Northwest Indiana (Lake County) and is home to a widely diverse population of students. Their vision statement is "Every child. Every day. Whatever it takes."

THE SITUATION

Merrillville School Corporation in Northwest Indiana has a proud history of serving their diverse student population. Their mission includes creating "quality learning experiences by setting standards that engage students to reach their highest potential". Never has this mission been put more to the test than in 2020.

As the COVID-19 pandemic moved across the nation, schools began closing, and Merrillville made the decision to move all classes virtual. Dr. Dexter Suggs, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, was faced with the daunting task of trying to determine how to support student learning in this new environment. He was convinced that data was the key for their district.
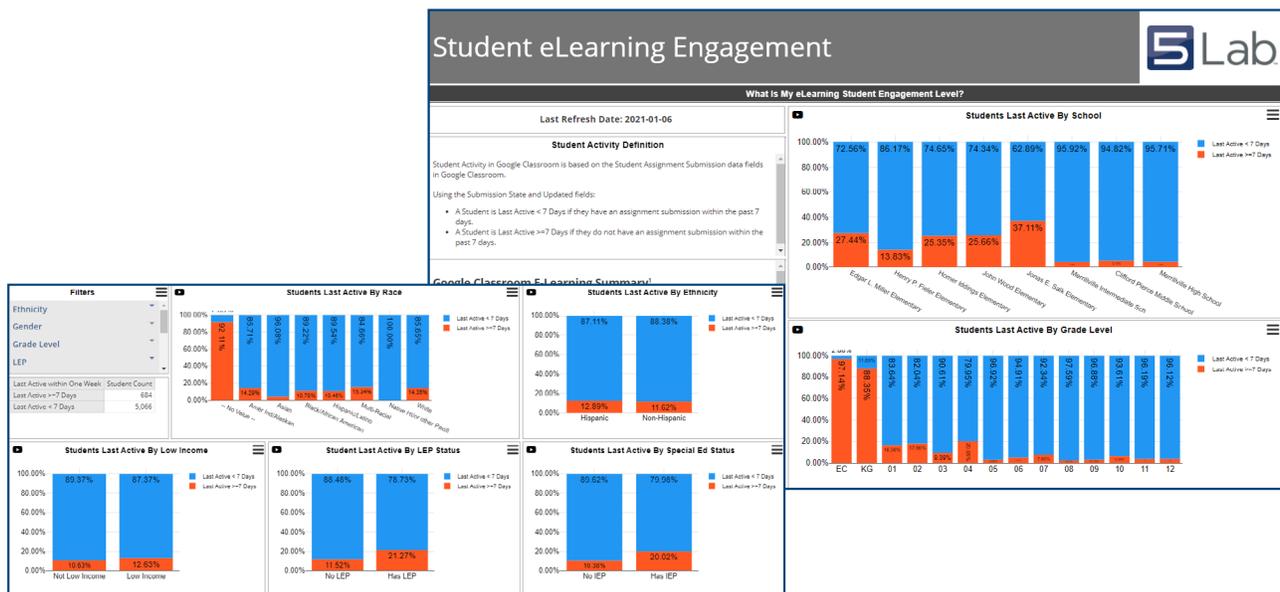
THE SOLUTION

Turning to their newly implemented Forecast5 solution, 5Lab, the corporation was able to quickly create critical dashboards using their Google Classroom data. Dr. Suggs wanted to be able to track student engagement, so he worked with the 5Lab team to define what student engagement meant (being active in the Google platform, completing assignments, etc.) The new dashboards provided views by school, grade, income, demographics, and more.

"We had no place to start, but we had to start somewhere." Dr. Suggs and his team continued to monitor the level of students actively involved in the learning process on a regular basis so that they could provide timely interventions if needed, and 5Lab provided a regular summary to support these efforts.

> " We needed a platform to ensure we were creating a virtual learning environment conducive to learning for all of our students. "
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> Dr. Dexter Suggs, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, Merrillville Community School Corportation

THE RESULTS

Merrillville trained approximately 30 building leaders and administrators to use 5Lab so that they could continuously assess which students might need additional support. Administrators were able to drill down to the student level and "bookmark" the lists of students needing potential assistance. This enabled the Merrillville teams to set up early-intervention flags so that they could help students stay on track.

The staff at Merrillville Community School Corporation has a saying that it "is important to provide the information to those in the battle..." In keeping with this philosophy, Dr. Suggs emphasized to the Merrillville team the critical importance of using the insights contained in 5Lab to inform and help drive learning for their students.

When asked how Merrillville will continue to use this data moving forward, Dr. Suggs stated that, "Using analytics will be important in a hybrid environment. The use of paper and pencil will become more obsolete, and we'll be able to gather data utilizing whatever technology platform is being used... And we have a centralized portal to facilitate gathering that information and getting that data to our team to effectively inform education."

For more information about how Merrillville Community School Corporation implemented tools to support eLearning engagement, please contact us at **web@forecast5analytics.com** or **request a live demo**.