Delivering Core Curriculum with ClassHero

ClassHero is a cutting-edge educational platform designed to improve student outcomes by providing a seamless layer of support for diverse learners, ensuring equitable access to core curriculum in a Tier 1 setting.

The platform assists teachers in effectively differentiating instruction, making learning more accessible for all students, and offering real-time progress monitoring. This comprehensive proposal outlines the benefits of adopting ClassHero in the School District of Philadelphia, focusing on content measures, equity, inclusivity, tech integrations, and research and evaluation.

I. Content Measures

A. Curriculum Alignment

ClassHero is designed to work with any core math curriculum, whether it is commercially purchased or district-developed. The platform's curriculum integration process can adapt to any curriculum with a scope and sequence containing content standards addressed within each module, unit, or topic of instruction. The proposal will demonstrate how ClassHero enhances the Illustrative Mathematics curriculum, a widely-used resource aligned with the Common Core Standards for Mathematics.

B. Instructional Resources

ClassHero offers a wide range of instructional resources that are aligned with the Illustrative Mathematics Curriculum Framework. These resources include scaffolded practice tasks, real-time progress monitoring, and daily support for each student's skill development. The platform uses various instructional models, such as number bonds, number lines, tape diagrams, and visual representations, to promote conceptual understanding and provide academic and language scaffolded supports.

C. Real-time Progress Monitoring

Teachers can monitor their students' progress in real-time using ClassHero's intuitive dashboard. This tool allows educators to track each student's skill mastery, identify

areas of struggle, and adjust instruction accordingly. The platform's progress monitoring capabilities are aligned with the district's core curriculum, providing a comprehensive and actionable overview of student performance.

II. Equity

A. Differentiated Instruction

ClassHero simplifies the process of differentiation for teachers, ensuring that every student has access to learning materials tailored to their specific needs in a Tier 1 setting. By leveraging district benchmark assessment data and combining it with ClassHero's real-time skill assessment data, teachers can assign differentiated skill practice from the core curriculum without waiting for Tier 2 interventions.

B. Accessibility

ClassHero is designed to be accessible to all students, regardless of their academic or linguistic background. The platform offers scaffolded skill practice that is differentiated according to each student's learning level, using district benchmark assessment data and ClassHero's real-time skill assessment data.

C. Support for English Learners and Dual Language Learners

ClassHero's unique language feature enables teachers to provide support for English Learners and Spanish Dual Language Learners. With over 37 languages supported with voiceover, the platform also offers full text, video, and voice-over narration in both English and Spanish for dual language classrooms.

III. Inclusivity

A. Community-Centered HeroBadges for Philadelphia

In ClassHero, students earn customized HeroBadges showcasing local and regional heroes who share the students' backgrounds, names, and appearances. Students earn these badges for practice, and collect them like trading cards, helping them see themselves as future mathematicians, scientists, engineers, artists, and activists.

The HeroBadge program works by incentivizing students to complete math practice. Students choose a HeroBadge to work towards and earn it by completing the required number of practice sessions. This engaging reward system promotes consistent math practice while also educating students about significant community figures who serve as relatable role models.

Example of Custom Hero Badges from Albuquerque Public Schools in New Mexico

B. Special Education: More practice in Tier 1 Settings

While ClassHero offers a range of accommodations and modifications for students with special needs, like text-to-speech in 38 languages, an additional key element of inclusivity is the core philosophy built into our differentiation. Instead of isolating students in their weakest mathematical area, and giving struggling students 2 unrelated topics to work at at the same time (from their classroom and their interventionist), ClassHero keeps students in the same topics as their peers, regardless of ability, and differentiates their practice to a level that matches their zone of proximal development.

If a 4th grade class is practicing fractions, a student at grade level might be working on a problem like this:
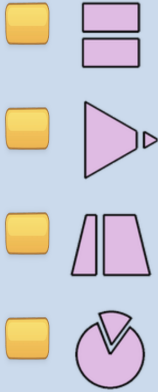

If a student struggles with this level of fraction work, in ClassHero, they won't be given a totally different topic to work on, compounding their confusion. They'll be differentiated *within fractions* to a dependent skill, so they can continue to work with their friends and classmates on the topic at hand:

ClassHero helps all students by significantly improving Tier 1.

IV. Tech Integrations

A. Learning Management System Integration

ClassHero is designed to integrate seamlessly with popular Learning Management Systems (LMS) such as Google Classroom, Canvas, and Schoology. This compatibility allows teachers to manage their ClassHero assignments and track student progress directly from their LMS, streamlining the process and reducing administrative workload.

B. Single Sign-On

The platform supports single sign-on (SSO) functionality, enabling students and teachers to access ClassHero using their existing login credentials from other platforms like Clever and ClassLink. This simplifies the user experience, improves security, and ensures a smooth transition between various educational tools.

C. Device Compatibility

ClassHero is compatible with various devices, including desktop computers, laptops, tablets, and smartphones. This flexibility allows students to access the platform from any device with internet connectivity, providing opportunities for learning both inside and outside the classroom.

V. Research and Evaluation

A. Evidence-Based Practices

ClassHero is built upon research-backed principles that support effective teaching and learning. The platform's adaptive skill practice tools provide timely feedback and hints to students, align with daily instruction, and offer teachers organized information about student progress. These features have been shown to significantly accelerate learning.

B. Ongoing Evaluation

ClassHero is committed to continuous improvement and closely monitors its effectiveness in improving student outcomes. The platform collects and analyzes data on student performance, engagement, and growth to identify areas for enhancement and ensure its ongoing impact.
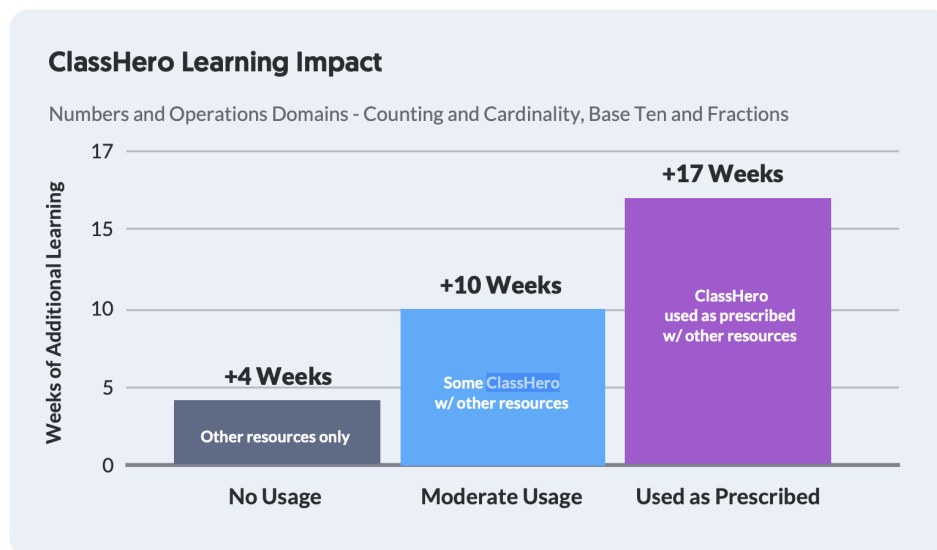
C. Collaboration with Districts

ClassHero actively collaborates with school districts to support the implementation and evaluation of the platform. This partnership includes ongoing professional development, technical support, and the sharing of best practices to ensure that ClassHero effectively meets the unique needs of each district.

D. Evidence of Effectiveness: A Case Study

Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) implemented ClassHero at Alamosa Elementary School, a diverse school with a high percentage of historically underserved students. A case study was developed from this implementation.

During the evaluation period, 95% of students used ClassHero, with 36% using it at the recommended level, because teachers were able to quickly integrate ClassHero into their instructional programs, thanks to its user-friendly interface and alignment with the core curriculum.

The study compared the average growth of three groups: those who did not use ClassHero, those who used ClassHero, and those who used ClassHero as prescribed.

ClassHero Learning Impact

Numbers and Operations Domains - Counting and Cardinality, Base Ten and Fractions

Weeks of Additional Learning

- No Usage — Other resources only — **+4 Weeks**
- Moderate Usage — Some ClassHero w/ other resources — **+10 Weeks**
- Used as Prescribed — ClassHero used as prescribed w/ other resources — **+17 Weeks**

The results showed a statistically significant acceleration of learning for students who used ClassHero as prescribed, equating to an extra 14 weeks of school worth of

learning. Students who used the app but not as prescribed also experienced accelerated learning rates. The high usage rate and accelerated learning suggest that ClassHero effectively supports historically underserved students, including English Learners and bilingual students.

The case study provides evidence that ClassHero can enhance teachers' ability to provide differentiated skill practice and accelerate math learning for historically underserved students. The app's ease of integration, alignment with the core curriculum, and support for diverse learners make it a promising EdTech tool to address math achievement gaps and improve overall student outcomes.

Conclusion

ClassHero offers a comprehensive solution for enhancing mathematics education in the School District of Philadelphia. By addressing content measures, equity, inclusivity, tech integrations, and research and evaluation, the platform promises to significantly improve student outcomes and support teachers in meeting the diverse needs of their students. Adopting ClassHero will ensure that all students have equitable access to high-quality math education, empowering them to reach their full potential and succeed in an increasingly competitive global environment.