

Teamwork, Planning Led to Smooth, Districtwide Launch in Cumberland County

The Challenge

Roll out zSpace districtwide for 1:1 CTE instruction in 10 high schools and two middle schools.



Cumberland County Schools.(CCS) is a diverse district in Fayetteville, North Carolina, spanning urban and rural communities. Serving more than 50,000 students, CCS is one of the largest employers in the community second only to the military including Fort Liberty and other bases.

In 2022, the district began implementing AR/VR with 19 zSpace glasses-free Inspire laptops to support its Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. Teachers used the laptops and the built-in curriculum to delve into topics like health science and agriculture science.

Keys to a Successful Rollout

The success of zSpace as a teaching tool, and the excitement the students demonstrated when using the technology led to the district's decision for a major expansion with an additional 480 systems. Technology carts with zSpace Inspire laptops will be incorporated into 10 high schools and two middle schools in the fall of 2023. Instead of a teacher using the unit and students watching, all classroom students will be able to build, dissect and experiment virtually.

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The Solution

Take a team approach supported by leadership that focuses on quality professional development, IT team expertise and coordination, and curriculum integration.

“
The CCS technology team is an integral part in the success of our hardware purchases due to the support and responsiveness to the needs of teachers and students, ensuring an exceptional environment for learning.”

– Chip Lucas

Executive Director of CTE, Cumberland County



The district has done a thorough job of planning to guarantee success. Major components included:

1. Strategic, Comprehensive Teacher Support

Throughout the previous school year and summer, zSpace professionals and CCS teachers worked together to learn to use the AR/VR laptops to their fullest potential.

“Targeted professional development is an essential component for our premier professionals to prepare and focus on career and technical essential standards,” said Chip Lucas, Executive Director of CTE, Cumberland County.

The professional development was designed to give teachers an opportunity to both learn and plan for the integration of the technology.

“Throwing new technology at someone requires instruction and learning,” said Sheena Shoemaker, senior customer success manager for zSpace. “CCS has taken the continuous learning approach to PD by dividing the learning into digestible amounts and giving teachers time to process and try it out.”

2. Strategic, Comprehensive Teacher Support

As the teaching staff worked on getting up to speed, the IT team at CCS was shoring up the back end for success. Keeping their focus on teacher and student usability, a variety of team members, from the technology director to the WAN policy guru, set up the zSpace Inspire laptops to make sure that everything would run smoothly from the start, from readying student logins to setting up a schedule for regular updates.

“
The team of people I have the privilege of leading every day, are truly the finest group of technologists, problem solvers and critical thinkers that I have had the pleasure of working with.”

– Chris Young
Executive Director of Technology



3. Curriculum Integration

The professional development component extended far beyond learning to use the laptops and AR/VR technology. Teachers involved in the program did a deep dive into the zSpace lesson offerings and were given time to integrate the lessons into their pacing guides and Canvas learning management system.

Creating zSpace curriculum alignments and embedding them into Canvas ensures that teachers are prepared for back-to-school.. When classes start in fall, the lessons will be ready, complete with student-facing instructions, labs, and learning assessments.

“The support received from the different experts at zSpace was critical to the success of our curriculum development workshop,” said Lucas. “Teachers could see themselves as lead learners, ready to share content in a new and exciting way to students.”