

Success Story

Replicating Success – BYOC travels from Wyoming to Montana

When current Anaconda School District #10 Superintendent and Curriculum Director, Dr. Gerry Nolan, made the transition from his previous position to Anaconda School District # 10 he knew there would be at least one thing he would be bringing with him, BuildYourOwnCurriculum (BYOC). In his previous position at Fremont County School District #2 in Wyoming, Dr. Nolan had used BYOC with great success and he sought to recreate that success here in the Anaconda School District #10.



“After teaching a guaranteed and viable curriculum written with the BYOC platform, our students scored above the state and national averages, not only on the composite and discipline level scores, but in every sub-category as well.”

— Dr. Gerry Nolan, Superintendent and Curriculum Director
Anaconda School District #10

BYOC at Fremont County #2

During his time at Fremont County School District #2 Dr. Nolan worked with BYOC and our School Software Group staff for five years. According to Dr. Nolan, “The impact of this work over a five-year period was transformative for us at Fremont 2.” Before Fremont County Schools had implemented curriculum with BYOC their ACT scores fell

well below state and national averages. However, after four years of “teaching a guaranteed and viable curriculum written with the BYOC platform, our students scored above the state and national averages, not only on the composite and discipline level scores, but in every sub-category as well,” recalled Dr. Nolan. BYOC enabled the staff at Fremont County Schools to achieve this level of success by helping the Fremont County staff create an organized and standardized curriculum.

After using BYOC the teachers and students all had a consistent understanding of the vocabulary, learning targets, and the enduring understandings that were expected to be mastered at each grade level and in each subject. When Dr. Nolan recalls the success Fremont County Schools experienced with the help of BYOC he states, “BYOC helped us go from being a good school, as measured by academic achievement, to a great school.” It is this type of success that Dr. Nolan hopes to recreate now in Montana.



build your own
curriculum
The Framework for K-12 Success

Anaconda School District #10

Anaconda, Montana

• Enrollment - 1,052 Students • Five Buildings

BYOC at Anaconda School District # 10

Although Dr. Nolan knew that he wanted to bring BYOC and our staff at School Software Group to his new district in Anaconda, Montana, he still needed to look at and consider other curriculum platforms on the market. Dr. Nolan recounts the Anaconda School District's search: "We looked at all of the competitors and found that there was no comparison. There was not a single area (price, ease of use, professional development, service, etc.) in which BYOC did not offer the best option. The choice for us was very easy." Once the decision to purchase and move forward with BYOC was made, the training began.

As with many new products that are introduced to schools and their staff, the training portion of the implementation process is crucial, especially for garnering authentic teacher buy-in. Without the support of a district's staff a product will often fail. At School Software Group we take the training and support portion of our job very seriously. We believe that our product is both effective in transforming curriculum into a living, breathing document and extremely user friendly, but people still need training and support. It is our top priority that our customers receive extensive and effective training and support from day one and continuing as long as they use the product.

"Because the platform is so user friendly most people can actually start writing curriculum within an hour of starting to use the software."

Having been through the implementation and training process with School Software Group twice, Dr. Nolan can speak on the process with expertise. According to Dr. Nolan, "I can tell you that the training was very well presented and received. Because the platform is so user friendly most people can actually start writing curriculum within an hour of starting to use the software." Dr. Nolan continues

discussing the BYOC support staff, "The BYOC team is very helpful and ultra-responsive to our questions and additional training needs."

Dr. Nolan and the staff at Anaconda School District #10 have been using BYOC for just over a year now. In that time span they were able to develop and publish PreK-12 Math curriculum, 7-12 Vocational Education curriculum, PreK-12 Counseling curriculum, and their district's Spanish curriculum. Looking forward Dr. Nolan states, "We are going to have our entire PreK-12 curriculum published on our website for all of our patrons to see in the space of 3 to 4 years." According to Dr. Nolan his district is going to accomplish all of this so quickly due to the fact that "our staff speaks so highly of the product other staff members in other curricular areas are getting a head start and working with the system." With a good portion of their curriculum already developed Anaconda County School District is beginning to look forward to the success that Dr. Nolan experienced in Fremont.

The Secrets of BYOC's Success

Dr. Nolan's experience with BYOC in both Fremont, Wyoming and Anaconda, Montana are only two stories in BYOC's long legacy of success. When asked about what makes BYOC stand out from other curriculum products on the market Dr. Nolan listed three main reasons. The first is the nature of the BYOC software. Reflecting on the nature of the software, Dr. Nolan says "It is user friendly, but can be adapted in so many different ways. In the design process you truly get to 'build your own curriculum.'" Another reason often referenced by BYOC customers is the School Software Group support staff and customer service. "They have the best customer service of any service provider we work with. They are quick to respond and will work with you in any fashion you like. They offer great professional development so that your staff can get into using the product in short order," expands Dr. Nolan. Finally, BYOC is competitively priced to be, according to Dr. Nolan, "The best value on the market. Their product is second to none and they have the most reasonable pricing structure."