

Distance Learning Spanish Program

Texas Commission on Virtual Learning

March 30, 2022

Program Overview

- Schools reached out to us years ago and requested our help with Spanish Instruction due to their inability to hire certified teachers.
- We recruit and hire certified teachers who are employees of Region 5 and contract with schools through an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)
- The school supplies a classroom aid to facilitate the class at the campus.
- Our teachers meet with the aid and the students at the beginning of the school year to establish expectations and begin to develop a rapport.

Program Overview (Cont.)

- Instruction is delivered virtually in real time to the students through video with the instructional aid in the classroom. (Similar to a dual credit college class)
- We offer Spanish 1-4
- Our technology has evolved over the years to enhance the quality of our teaching.
- We have very little turnover with our teachers. We still employ the two teachers who started the program fifteen years ago.

Program Background

- This our 15th year of instruction.
- We began with two teachers and two schools.
- At our largest, we have employed 10 teachers, working with 6 districts, and 1,500 students.
- Our most remote district was Spring Creek ISD in the panhandle 654 miles from Beaumont.
- We have worked with a total of 12 districts outside of Region 5.

Program Background (Cont.)

- Greatest number of districts taught by one teacher during the day is four, greatest number taught in the same class period is three.
- The cost to a district for a full time teacher all day is approx. \$80,000. (This is with no profit margin for the ESC)
- The largest district we have served is Port Arthur ISD, approx. 9,000 students.

Critical Success Factors

- Educator quality and experience
- Program planning and design
- Providing the special tools and knowledge necessary for quality virtual instruction. (equipment, professional development, and support)
- The instructional aid hired by the school to facilitate the class and building the relationship between the teacher, aid, and students
- Establishing expectations for virtual education and rapport between the instructor and students.

Greatest Challenges

- Recruiting teachers suited to virtual instruction
- Pay
- Scheduling conflicts between schools and campuses (including textbooks and materials)
- Cost to districts
- Virtual classroom management and building relationships

Thoughts From the Field

- I will share some thoughts from my discussion with three of our best and most experienced instructors.

Questions
