Using Stride Academy to Increase Reading and Math Skills in Mobile Students

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Oregon’s Migrant Program is the fifth largest in the United States with roughly 19,500 Migrant students. We have 18 programs around the state. Nine are districts and nine are Education Service Districts (ESDs).

The four goals of the Oregon Service Delivery Plan are: 1) Preschool Readiness, 2) Passing State Test in Reading, 3) Passing State Test in Reading and 4) Graduation.
Parent Needs

• During the 2016-2017 as I met with parents and after I had reviewed the services we offered, I asked the question, “What else would you like us to offer that we currently do not offer?” Every one of the nine meetings had the parents sharing the same answer, “We want more tutorials in reading and math for our children.”
Looking for a Program

I attended our state math adoption sharing programs offered in Oregon and I went to every vendor asking for supplementary online programs. Some had programs, but one needed to purchase the entire math curriculum to receive the online math support.

At the event I ran into a fellow principal and she asked me why I was there and so I shared my need. She shared that at her upper elementary school, they had used Stride Academy as an after school tutorial.
She stated that the program was making a huge difference at her school. Her school is composed of a large number of migrant, ELL and poverty students.

I asked if students liked the program. She shared that although it was an after school program, 39% of student use was after 6 p.m. when they were at home.

I asked about access for Spanish speakers since 99% of our migrant students are Hispanic in Oregon.
My concern was regarding access of technology in our migrant families and she shared that at her school a majority of students had access at home. The program provides students K-High School goals in reading, math, language arts and science, tied to the common core. They can have it in English or Spanish or flip between them. Students can work below or above their grade level.

What I really liked was the reporting features sharing what skills were mastered during what time frame. We have a regular year and a summer school report.
Advantages of Stride

The program differentiates instruction for every student finding the skills that they are missing and acknowledging those they have mastered. Stride is game based. Students earn coins as they pass skills. After 2-3 skills, they can choose to play one of several games for a minute, then have to go back to earning coins.

I contacted Stride Academy to investigate a state license for migrant students in Oregon. Their salesman gave me a great price as a pilot to get a license for every migrant student.
Stride Academy Video

For a short video that better explains Stride Academy go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egF4aj1iXT0
Oregon had five levels of implementation. Level 1 would give parents help at home with homework. It would identify skills they needed to learn and let the parents know how they compared to the grade level. No support was required at the local level other than giving password and training students and parents in using it. Parents needed a laptop or tablet with wifi or a smartphone.

Level 2 would have the local schools open up their labs and library computers before and after school or during lunch for those students who didn’t have access at home.
Level 3 would partner with a school to provide after school tutorials with a staff member teaching skills students were missing. Principals shared with me that the number one reason teachers did not want to provide after school tutorials was because they did not want to plan another series of lessons. With Stride, all students can be working independently and the teacher can call back the six students that are all missing the same skill and teach it, then send them back to confirm it online.
Levels 4 & 5

Level 4 would have every migrant summer school use Stride during the summer school to help all students understand how to access Stride. Level 5 would have every students after the 3-4 weeks of summer school spend the rest of summer school seeing skills they were still missing from the grade they just finished and fill in the gaps so they are at grade level when school starts. If they are all caught up, to start working on the skills for the next grade level.
With the change of the MEP formula, state allocations are based on Category 1: # of migrant students + Category 2: # of students served academically in the summer. In Oregon we serve about a third of our migrant students in summer schools. This summer for those students that are unable to attend summer school because of lack of programs, traveling during the time summer schools are in session, not priority for service, etc., local programs are hiring educators to meet with families 3-4 times minimum during the summer and setting goals and encouraging students and their parents to work on skills they are missing. They students can be counted for category 2.
Zoom is a free program that allows teleconferences and records the meeting. In Oregon every local program has a camera that allows them to attend statewide meetings where they can be seen and speak as if they were at the meeting. You can upgrade Zoom for a fee.

Remind (previously Remind101) is a private mobile messaging platform that enables teachers, parents, students, and administrators in K-12 schools to communicate with each other.\textsuperscript{[1]} The platform has more than 20 million monthly active users across the United States. As of September 2016, Remind is used in more than 50% of the public schools in the U.S. Translates into 70 languages.
Vroom=Vroom is a free preschool app in English and Spanish to build metacognitive skills in preschool children. The brand new www.vroom.org website, which provides all of the content of the Daily Vroom app without needing a Smartphone. For questions go to www.oregonearlylearning.com/vroom.
Meet in groups of 4-6 and share how your program/districts/state could use Stride Academy to help migrant students. We will share out top ideas shared in the groups.
Make a circle and share “ahas” you are leaving with.

Our Final goal.