

Statewide Online School **Reaches Chronically Disengaged Students** with EmpowerU

Educators at EPIC Charter Schools utilize EmpowerU's Tier 2 program to reach struggling students in a virtual environment.

SITUATION

For years, EPIC teachers and leaders searched for ways to **help their least engaged students succeed** in a **virtual environment**.

EPIC offers online learning to serve some 30,000 students statewide, from preschool through high school. Many of EPIC's middle and high school students enroll to complete coursework and eventually graduate after struggling in a traditional school.

However, when students fail to complete work at EPIC, their success requires more than a change of school or scenery. By the summer of 2021, school leaders needed something to help student engagement and academic growth. It needed to be **simple to implement** without asking more from teachers.



PARTNERSHIP

School goals: Reverse the pattern of disengagement, build motivation to complete schoolwork, and get students over that finish line at graduation.

With no school counseling team — and teachers weary from other new programs and systems — EPIC needed a **partner it could trust** to serve Tier 2 students. After reviewing programs and curriculum options over summer break, the team selected EmpowerU. Implementation began as school started, focusing on simplicity for the EPIC team and **smooth integration** with the school's existing systems.

The first students began the course in November. The online lessons allow students to set goals and learn new skills at their own pace. **Daily 1:1 support** from an experienced EmpowerU coach provided accountability and a positive relationship to enhance learning.



RESULTS

EPIC teachers noticed anecdotal results within just a few weeks, including **better attitudes** and **motivation**. In the time since, they report that students who complete EmpowerU become more **engaged learners** with **stronger academic performance**.

Students also share positive feedback about the course. They often tell teachers that EmpowerU is a class they look forward to each week. 96% of students reported that their coach was “very significant” to their success and participation.

Judging by their EmpowerU dashboard, EPIC leaders are confident that **positive changes** are taking place for students. They are designing additional **data tracking** to understand the benefits better and correlate EmpowerU completion rates with other student success measures.

STAFF FEEDBACK

**91%**

Saw **student growth** in social-emotional well-being or mental health

Testimonials

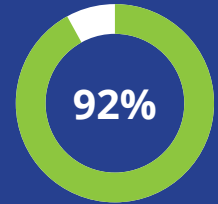
"When we purchased EmpowerU for our high school students we were excited, but it seemed too good to be true. We wondered if it would really work as well as they promised. Other SEL programs we have used in the past underdelivered. But EmpowerU was everything they promised — and more."

TINA BARBER, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF INSTRUCTION

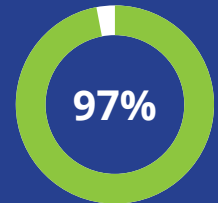
"The coaches make the difference. Our older students traditionally have a hard time engaging in learning. To see 85-90% of these students actively participating in the EmpowerU course is mind blowing for us."

JULIANN KOEHN, SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING SPECIALIST

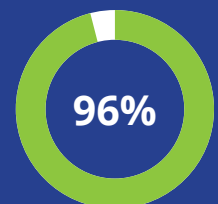
STUDENT OUTCOMES



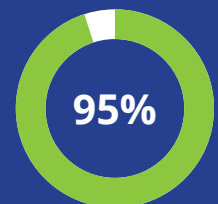
made progress towards their goal



rated EmpowerU 1:1 Coaching as a factor of their success



rated the course as helpful



would recommend EmpowerU to a friend