



# NEXT GENERATION ASSESSMENTS

## The Future Now: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Strategic Technology Planning Kenosha Unified School District

### EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

#### ■ CHALLENGE

Accurately assess and track students', teachers' and administrators' technology proficiency and library media program effectiveness for its three year strategic technology plan and Wisconsin and federal Reporting Standards for Title funding requirements.

#### ■ SOLUTION

Kenosha chose NGA to seamlessly deploy, collect, analyze and report on 360° assessment and survey data for compliance and grant funding reporting. NGA's solution provides teachers, schools and the district with one-click reporting capabilities.

#### ■ BENEFIT

NGA helped Kenosha to target, collect, and analyze 1,453 pilot students in a week. This model will be rapidly deployed to Kenosha's 22,000 students and 1,800 teachers. NGA's Scorecard will provide accurate benchmarks for the district's 40 schools.

*"We are thrilled to finally have a vehicle to gather critical information from our library media teachers so that we can address future improvements to our program."*

**Diane Kastelic**  
Library Media Consultant  
Kenosha Unified

When the team at Kenosha Unified School District started working on their new three-year technology plan, they knew they had their work cut out for them. The district wanted to dig deeper into its students' and teachers' true technology proficiency level from different perspectives. Kenosha wanted even more visibility than it already had into its technology strengths and improvement areas. By using data to help identify its strengths and ways to improve its technology programs, Kenosha knew it would be able to deliver on its promise to graduate students with excellent 21<sup>st</sup> century technology skills. However, administering research-based assessments and surveys to thousands of people was no easy task.

Kenosha, like nearly 9,500 other school districts, turned to the seasoned team that now makes up Next Generation Assessments (NGA) for help. NGA's team began working with Kenosha Unified to understand its needs and desired goals. Annie Fredriksson, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Library Media, knew that getting an objective, research-based and verified technology assessment solution was a critical step in developing an informed technology plan. Annie and her colleagues worked with NGA to incorporate its larger educational ecosystem – teachers, students, library media centers, and administrators – into a robust assessment and survey strategy.

### THE WHOLE PICTURE

NGA's 360° Assessment platform allowed Annie and her team to get a holistic view on the district's technology needs. She was excited that key stakeholders were evaluated, and that teachers' technical knowledge, content knowledge, pedagogical knowledge, digital citizenship and leadership skills were measured through the NGA Teacher Assessment.

*"The data clearly aligns which will make our plan much more meaningful."*

**Annie Fredriksson**  
Coordinator of Instructional Technology  
Kenosha Unified School District

Administrators took the NGA Administrator Assessment which aligns to the ISTE NETS Standards for Administrators, while Library Media Specialists took the NGA Program Assessment which aligns to the AASL Standards.

Kenosha was relieved that NGA's assessments were performance-based and aligned to leading technology assessment standards, such as ISTE NETS, AASL Standards, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. This made the job of ensuring compliance with state and federal standards much easier. NGA's matrix of key questions and corresponding standards illustrated to Annie the alignment of both federal and state level compliance requirements.

## ENHANCED EXISTING METHODS

Due to how Wisconsin State technology standards are written, Kenosha integrates technology use across subjects to help evaluate a student's technology proficiency. While the integration of technology across subjects is helpful at assessing skills in context, it does make it more difficult to benchmark students as they advance from one grade to the next. Kenosha was faced with the common challenge of assessing year-to-year improvement. Annie and her colleagues knew they needed a way to compare and benchmark certain initiatives within the new technology plan.

NGA's Scorecard fulfilled the need perfectly. Using the district-wide Scorecard, Kenosha will be able to

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see all of the data rolled up into a single, easy-to-read report. The scorecard links technology spending with technology proficiency results. Annie was truly excited about how the student, teacher and administrator technology proficiency data could be clearly aligned with the technology plan.

Beyond alignment, NGA's Scorecard and detailed reports show how each student, teacher, or school is doing relative to a peer group and a benchmark. For example, if a particular school is scoring below the benchmark, then Kenosha can facilitate professional development programs to target specific needs.

## A BRIGHT FUTURE

Armed with Scorecards and detailed reports, Kenosha is able to start to formulate a comprehensive and strategic technology plan this summer with the help of NGA's consultants. Annie and her colleagues look to NGA's solution beyond just the strategic technology creation phase. They see NGA as a solution that can drive long-term success of the district's ability to produce students with superior technology skills. With a powerful data-driven foundation, Kenosha can now proceed with confidence that its strategic technology plan will equip its students with technology skills to help them excel in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

