

# How Unique Learning System Increased Student Scores by 19.7% at Bradley School Providence



Bradley Schools are private and school-funded day school special education programs for students whose needs cannot currently be met in a traditional public school setting. The schools across Rhode Island and Connecticut provide educational programs for students with academic, psychiatric, and behavioral needs from kindergarten through age 22. Across the six Bradley School locations, there are over 400 students enrolled across 50 classrooms.

## The Story of Bradley School Providence

Providing a rigorous curriculum differentiated for each student is a priority for Bradley Schools. For those students eligible for alternate assessment, customizing instruction using the modified standards was a goal Bradley School worked hard to achieve. Bradley's largest school, Bradley Providence, has a large number of classrooms for students that meet this profile.

## The Challenge

Bradley School Providence's teachers and administration wanted to ensure their students received individualized instruction, but they needed to have a robust special education curriculum to support them and their students. Their certified special education teachers spent hours pulling material from teacher-generated websites and general education textbooks each week. Then they modified the grade-level curriculum and aligned it to Rhode Island state standards for accordance with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and IDEA. It was laborious, especially for teachers new to the profession. Students weren't progressing toward achieving grade-level skills at a rate they wanted, so they focused on finding a solution that provided a modified, standards-aligned curriculum with engaging content.

## MODIFIED, STANDARDS-ALIGNED CURRICULUM

It was important for Kristin Phillips, a special educator and teacher leader at Bradley School Providence, to have an efficient process for finding standards-aligned lessons already modified for her students' needs. She said, "We were constantly modifying content, spending a lot of time planning and creating lessons from scratch. And still, there would be gaps in instruction, and we knew that we were not fully engaging our students."

## CAPTIVATING CONTENT THAT PROMOTED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Because students struggled to actively participate in lessons, it was critical for the school to find a curriculum that hooked their students. They knew it would increase students' academic skill acquisition and promote confidence.

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## The Solution

After piloting Unique Learning System (ULS), Bradley School Providence found it to be an effective online special education curriculum that provided comprehensive standards-aligned instruction they did not need to modify. They appreciated the highly engaging thematic units and seamless organization of support resources for teachers.

Kristin Phillips also credits the student-facing materials:

“I think it’s so wonderful that we have these units that cover the standards [and] include the stories. The characters reflect what our students are going through. Students are drawing comparisons and making connections with the characters, something they’ve never been able to do before.”

*“The characters reflect what our students are going through.”*

## ULS PROVIDED:

- Standards-aligned thematic units available year-round, ensuring students in preschool through transition were accessing grade-level material in every unit of study
- Research- and evidence-based strategies to support all students and varying-ability classrooms
- Differentiated, engaging lessons and activities in ELA, math, social studies, science, life skills, and transition topics
- Expert-developed and research-based modified assessments that captured real-time data to guide individual instruction and decision-making



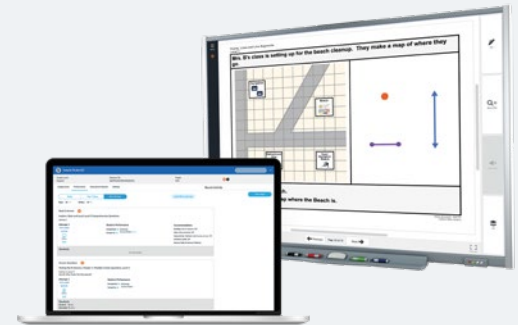
## The Results

In Kristin Philips' class over the school year, students showed a **19.7% increase on average** in content skills as measured by Checkpoint assessments. Content skills involve various reading skills including comprehension while also building test-taking skills. In addition, Checkpoint assessments indicated that students made gains month over month in ELA and math skills.

Unique Learning System also exceeded Bradley School Providence's expectations by:

- Reducing teachers' workloads through an all-in-one curriculum with standards-aligned, age-appropriate modified content
- Increasing teacher capacity through exposure to evidence-based strategies and differentiated instruction
- Supporting emergency-certified teachers with ready-made lesson plans that ensured every student received explicit, research-based instruction with grade-specific instructional targets

The partnership between Bradley School Providence and n2y continues to grow. It has helped the school develop well-rounded students who feel supported and has increased teacher satisfaction and confidence. Bradley School Providence has since added four other n2y solutions for its teachers: News2you, SymbolStix PRIME, L<sup>3</sup> Skills, and Classics.



n2y's Unique Learning System provides teachers with research- and evidence-based lessons and practices to keep students connected and learning. High-interest content includes interactive activities, experiments, crafts, and more. Lessons are differentiated to three levels in each grade band, so students get the appropriate level of challenge to empower learning. With access to assessment and performance data, teachers can easily monitor progress and tailor instruction to meet each student's changing needs.

