

TeachTown & Urbandale Community School District

A Customer Success Story

BACKGROUND

LOCATION: Urbandale, IA

OBJECTIVES:

In this customer success story, we will explore how Urbandale Community School District utilized TeachTown's comprehensive, standards-first curriculum to reduce teacher prep time and improve student outcomes.

Located about 12 miles northwest of downtown Des Moines, Urbandale Community School District (UCSD) serves over 3,300 students in four elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, and an alternative high school program. UCSD's Dynamic Learner program provides instruction in the special education setting to students that participate in the Iowa Alternate Assessment focused on modified grade-level core standards through the Iowa Core Essential Elements.



Introduction

The mission of Urbandale Community School District is: **Teaching All – Reaching All**. While simply put, educators know the complexity that comes with meeting the needs of every learner, especially for students with disabilities. Teachers at Urbandale were spending excessive time searching for and developing materials that were aligned with state standards. After continuous requests from teachers to purchase supplemental materials, leadership at UCSD knew it was time to re-evaluate their curriculum and find a solution that could best meet the needs of their staff and students.

For Urbandale, enCORE was that solution.

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“From our very first meeting with TeachTown, they were focused on what we needed and how they could support us best,” Special Education Curriculum Facilitator shares. “We were impressed with the alignment to the Iowa Core Essential elements within each unit across the four core subject areas.”

To support Urbandale’s commitment to helping every student reach their goals, the district introduced multiple TeachTown programs in the district:



enCORE: A K-12 standards-first, adapted core curriculum that provides students with moderate to severe disabilities access to the general education curriculum.



TeachTown Basics: An intervention program that combines computer-delivered and teacher-led instruction to build vocabulary, social-emotional skills, functional academics, and more.



Implementing TeachTown at UCSD

At TeachTown, now part of Everway, we acknowledge that successful implementation of a new curriculum starts with 360-degree support. Our Customer Enablement Division provides comprehensive training and assistance that fosters fidelity of instruction for facilitators.

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“The team at TeachTown was a great support in scheduling our training sessions for teachers. We were provided with notes and resources following each training to refer back to if needed. Additionally, the team was extremely responsive to any questions we had.”

- Special Education Curriculum Facilitator

In fact, the professional development offered by TeachTown is actually the number one piece of advice Urbandale recommends for other districts adopting the curriculum:

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“I highly recommend purchasing all of the training that is offered, including the individual teacher sessions,” suggests Special Education Director. “This helped to build confidence and ensure that we are implementing enCORE as intended to get the best results.”

Teachers at UCSD also experimented with different implementation strategies to find what worked best for their classrooms. TeachTown’s flexibility allows educators to adapt the instruction to their individual teaching styles and students’ needs.

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“I found that what worked best with one of my groups was different than what I needed for a different group, so I think it is really important to be flexible and try different strategies for presenting the materials and content to reach learners of all abilities.”

- Elementary Special Education Teacher

The TeachTown Difference

UCSD's previous curricula did not provide them with overall program data, only on the individual student level. With enCORE, they can now pull reports across students, classrooms, districts, and various other segments.

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Our district administrators now have the data and tools to better support the growth of teachers and students.

- Special Education Director

With enCORE's automated data collection and comprehensive reporting capabilities, UCSD has seen clear student growth across grade bands between August 2025 and June 2026, including:

150% Student Growth Rate

Across enCORE Elementary, Middle and High School, students experienced an **average growth rate of 150% on pretest to posttest scores.**

32% Pretest Average 90% Mastery Rate

After an average of just 5 targeted exercises in Basics, student comprehension **jumped from a 32% pretest average to a 90% mastery rate.**





Real Teachers, Real Results

According to Special Education Curriculum Facilitator, the most frequent feedback she receives from their teachers is **appreciation for how much time enCORE saves them**. enCORE makes teaching more sustainable by providing educators with standards-alignment, ready-to-go exercises, scripted lesson plans, built-in differentiation, automated data collection, and more.

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“Before launching enCORE, we had used another resource for multiple years. We found that our teachers were often having to search outside of that curriculum to find additional resources in order to present lessons that addressed all of the learning standards,” shares Special Education Curriculum Facilitator. **“With enCORE, our teachers have eliminated the need to go searching for additional lesson materials.”**

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“The consistency of the lesson plans has made it so I can spend more time with my students,” says Elementary Special Education Teacher. **“I love knowing that enCORE is planned and there ready to go.”**

Elementary Special Education Teacher shares specifically how enCORE has cut down on her classroom prep time: “I have found the consistency in the vocabulary, sight words, and phonics lessons has been a **huge timesaver for me**. I also appreciate the visuals that are made to support the book and the skills addressed throughout the unit. The visuals needed for all the skill work are included with the lesson plan and are easy to print and have ready. The lessons are also very **easy to adapt to different levels of learners**. I use a lot of modeling and errorless learning with some of my students. Many of the concepts and objects in the book are simple things found in my classroom already that I can use for my students who need tactile objects.”

The consistency of enCORE has been impactful for students as well. “Students love the predictability and routines we have in place,” shares High School Special Education Teacher. “They truly feel a sense of pride and accomplishment when they are able to complete things independently.”

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*“Because of this predictable routine we have seen a **huge decrease in problem behaviors and an increase in independence.**”*

- Elementary Special Education Teacher

Urbandale teachers also appreciate that enCORE provides students with moderate to severe disabilities access to the general education curriculum and grade-appropriate content. **“The most rewarding part of using enCORE this year was seeing students engage with the same types of literature and topics as their general education peers,”** says High School Special Education Teacher. “My students especially loved the Greek mythology unit. They enjoyed learning about Gods, heroes, and myths, and many were excited to talk about the characters and stories during class discussions.”





High School Special Education Teacher goes on: “The Julius Caesar unit was another highlight. Students enjoyed reading and acting out parts of the story, making connections to their own life experiences, and learning about a classic work that many high school students study. **It was exciting to see them participate in conversations about the same content their peers were experiencing.**”

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*“For many of my students, **enCORE provided access to meaningful, age-respectful literature that they may not have been able to engage with otherwise.** They took pride in learning about the same stories and concepts as their classmates, which **increased both engagement and confidence.**”*

- High School Special Education Teacher

enCORE has provided UCSD with a special education solution that boosts teacher satisfaction and student outcomes. They’re excited to continue to explore the TeachTown curricula and experience ongoing growth across the district.

Learn More

As special educators, we all have the same goal in mind: providing our students with comprehensive learning opportunities that pave the way for educational and personal success.

Our award-winning adapted core curriculum solutions and supporting interventions deliver a whole child approach. We help you measurably improve the academic, behavioral, language, and adaptive skills of your students—from Pre-K through the transition years. Our entire curriculum has been founded upon what works for students with moderate to severe disabilities.



**Scan the QR code to learn more about how
TeachTown can work in your district.**

Leading provider of K-12 standards-based, adapted core curriculum.

Our suite of special education solutions offers students with moderate to severe disabilities equitable and inclusive access to the general education curriculum and the individualized interventions that support their success.



www.TeachTown.com