



# CASE STUDY

## FAYETTEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL & AGEE LIERLY LIFE PREPARATION SERVICES CENTER

TECHNOLOGY AND BLENDED LEARNING MEET DIVERSE STUDENT  
NEEDS AND INCREASE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

**Mission: To provide personalized learning programs and instruction to improve student mastery and increase graduation rates**

When Dr. Denise Hoy became assistant principal of Fayetteville High School in the fall of 2010, one third of the total school population of 1,800 were failing one or more classes at the end of the fall 2010 semester. Many of these classes were required for students to graduate. To address this issue, Dr. Hoy applied lessons she had learned in the 10 years she was a Special Education Teacher/Designee at Fayetteville. She focused on unique student needs and also leveraged technology to provide more flexible and targeted instructional solutions and increase the graduation rate. With the help of Odysseyware, Fayetteville implemented programs to help students stay on top of their coursework, recover credits when necessary, and earn first-time credits.

### at-a-glance

**Fayetteville High School  
& ALLPS Center**  
Fayetteville, AR

- 3%** Graduation rate increase from 2011-2013
- 80%** Discipline referral reduction for 2014
- 736** Credits recovered at ALLPS from August 2014 to March 2015



“Most of the students like the fact that they can access Odysseyware 24/7.”

—Dr. Denise Hoy, Principal of ALLPS Center

**Odysseyware®**



**“One teacher . . . submitted more than 100 referrals from August to December, because he was trying to teach students in a traditional way. In January, he started the blended learning. His referrals this year are less than 15 total referrals, and they’re all related to truancies vs behaviors.”**

—Dr. Denise Hoy, Principal of ALLPS Center

## Special Education

Dr. Hoy originally utilized Odysseyware to address the diverse needs of her special education students. Using embedded assessment and diagnostics and the ability to customize curriculum, Dr. Hoy was able to intervene at the individual student level. She provided materials and instruction at the grade and reading levels of each student to help them improve content mastery. Based on the success she experienced, Dr. Hoy expanded this approach to the larger student population.

## Catch-Up and Keep-Up Programs

The first initiative Fayetteville implemented was the Catch-Up Program. Designed for students failing a class near the end of semester, the Catch-Up Program assigns students targeted lessons required to achieve a passing grade and avoid repeating the entire class. The Keep-Up program assists students during the semester who have joined a class late or need to make up for days they’ve missed. Both of these programs provide students with the flexibility and opportunity to stay current with their coursework and on path toward graduation.

## Personalized and Blended Learning

Fayetteville also applied technology and personalized learning to offer students a more customized educational experience. By incorporating a blended learning model with Odysseyware, students have more options in the way they receive instruction. This has had a significant impact not only on student engagement but also classroom management, evidenced by a 95% reduction in discipline referrals.

Students are not only keeping up with their coursework and on track to graduate, many of them are also graduating early. One teacher had an issue where most students would skip her class because they didn’t like the traditional teaching structure. When she switched to blended learning with Odysseyware and began allowing the students to choose their own lessons and curriculum, students are requesting her class because of the flexibility in learning and fast-tracking to course completion.

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Odysseyware's course customization tool has also been used to create 30 courses for students with language deficiencies and disabilities. By providing this flexibility and targeted instruction, ALLPS students recovered 736 credits from August 2014 to March 2015. As of April 2015, 29 students have graduated early.

## Agee Lierly Life Preparation Services Center (ALLPS)

Fayetteville's alternative high school, the Agee Lierly Life Preparation Services Center (ALLPS), offers educational programs and services designed to support the development of students whose needs are not met by traditional programs. ALLPS is committed to personalized learning for their students, not only based on academic progress, but also bearing in mind their student's life circumstances. Students enroll in ALLPS for reasons as diverse as disruptive behavior, poor academic performance, homelessness, and medical issues.

Dr. Hoy became principal of ALLPS in 2014 and immediately began applying many of the successful strategies she had implemented at Fayetteville High School. In 2014, less than 100 students were enrolled at ALLPS. In 2015, enrollment has grown to 225 students. Odysseyware used to meet the unique needs of each student enrolled in ALLPS at any one time.

ALLPS offers a number of alternative instructional settings and focus areas that include, but are not limited to, night school, summer school, credit recovery, GED® prep, the Virtual Learning Academic Program (VLAP), and blended learning. Odysseyware's course customization tool has been used to create 30 customized courses for students with language deficiencies and disabilities. By providing this flexibility and targeted instruction, students recovered more than 700 credits from August 2014 to March 2015. As of April 2015, 29 students have graduated early.

"I had one student who was anticipated to graduate a year late in the traditional school setting," shares Dr. Hoy. "In October 2014, she was 12.5 credits short of graduating with her class. By March 2015, she completed 12 credits online and actually graduated two months early. The flexibility of blended learning and guided study classrooms allowed her to fast track to catch up and advance her learning."

### About ALLPS Center

**ALLPS offers educational programs and services designed to support the development of students whose needs are not met by traditional programs.**

**ALLPS will be one of 15 schools of innovation in Arkansas, and is the recipient of the Arkansas Alternative Education Innovation, Opportunities & Outcomes 2014-2015 Award**

According to Dr. Hoy, **"Most of the students like the fact that they can access Odysseyware ... on their phones or any tablet. They don't feel like they're being delayed or have lag time."**