Transforming learning beyond borders to unleash each student’s potential

Palliser Beyond Borders | Alberta, Canada | 8,100+ Students

“Blackboard is the best company I have worked with in over 20 years as an educator. Your customer service is beyond compare. I’ve always used Blackboard’s products because the synchronous component is a cornerstone of effective online learning.”

Alison Hancox, Principal, Palliser Beyond Borders

CHALLENGE
Palliser Regional Schools needed to find a way to expand education opportunities, ensure equal access to curriculum and instruction, and create more flexibility for students.

SOLUTION
Palliser Beyond Borders, a model of online teaching and learning excellence, was created to ensure all students throughout the province, and beyond, have access to curriculum and faculty. Palliser Beyond Borders leverages an engaging mix of asynchronous and synchronous online learning, powered by Blackboard Classroom, as students work at their own pace, from the convenience of home, on their own time, or following an individualized learning plan. This rolling enrollment digital learning experience is augmented with face-to-face coaching within their four outreach classroom centers or their home brick and mortar school.

RESULTS
Palliser Beyond Borders provides access to the entire high school curriculum for students throughout Alberta, Canada, and internationally. Students can complete their entire high school diploma through the online and blended program, or can supplement their experience in a traditional brick and mortar school with digital learning through Palliser Beyond Borders. Over the years, Palliser Beyond Borders has demonstrated exponential enrollment growth starting with just 27 students in the first year to over 1,000 in years four and five each.

In addition to healthy enrollment growth, Palliser Beyond Borders has demonstrated success in both completion rates, achievement rates, and student retention. Completion rates have grown from 65% to 97%. Student achievement ranks high at 85.4% overall and student retention hovers around 90%.

While the statistics are impressive, the impact Palliser Beyond Borders has on its students is truly impressive. Stephanie Krammer, a dedicated Palliser teacher, shared the story of the most meaningful impact of her work at Palliser Beyond Borders, “One of our graduates was the first member of his entire family to graduate from high school. Without the flexibility offered by Palliser Beyond Borders, he would not have been able to complete his diploma due to the competing need to help provide for his family. In his own words, “Having the opportunity to learn at my own pace was something that really helped me and other students get through high school. Being an independent student and having access to all my assignments was a big help. I found myself accomplishing things I never thought possible.”

Palliser Beyond Borders made a smooth transition from self-hosted Moodle to Blackboard Classroom to take advantage of its many benefits including two-way SIS integration, interactive offline access, and seamless integration of Open Education Resources (OER). As a result of this transition, Palliser Beyond Borders will enjoy a cost savings of over $10,000.