

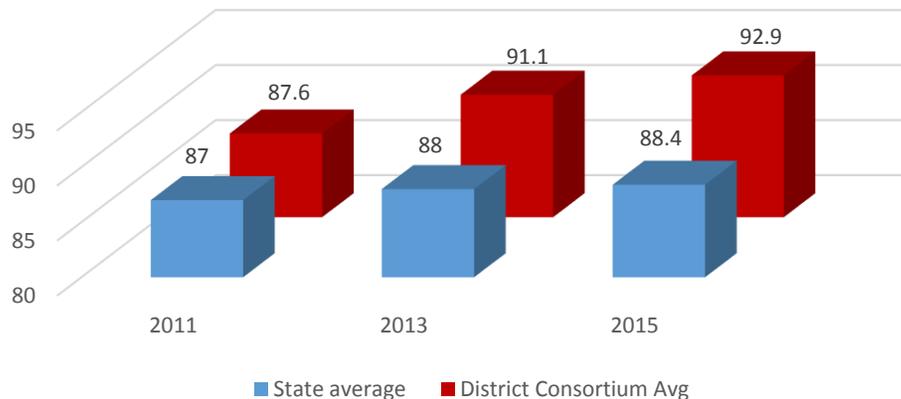
RESULTS

The program's overall graduation rate is over 90%, with an average dropout rate of less than 5% of students per year.

Odysseyware enables Connects to serve a wider population of students and, as Stacey Adamczyk said, "to help them plan their future beyond high school--not just earn their diploma."

The district is very supportive of Connects because, said Adamczyk, "We work with the kids that, for whatever reason, they couldn't reach. The students weren't engaged and they came here and we completely engaged them."

Average graduation rate increased
6.1% in 4 years



CASE STUDY

Cudahy, WI

Connects Learning Center serves grades 9 to 12 from 4 surrounding school districts. Students apply for admissions to take part in self-paced learning and receive a more individualized approach to earning their diploma.

DISTRICT:

Consortium program for:

- Oak Creek- Franklin Jt. School District
- Cudahy School District
- Franklin School District
- South Milwaukee School District

LOCATION:

Cudahy, WI

STUDENT POPULATION:

OCFJSD: 6,400 Students | 4 Schools
Connects Learning Center, 2001: 15
Connects Learning Center, 2017: 150

Odysseyware®

Odysseyware.com | 877.795.8904





Connects Learning Center enrollment has grown to 150 students in 2017.

“We work with the kids that, for whatever reason, they couldn’t reach.”

Stacey Adamczyk
Lead Teacher

“This same-quality, different-format approach has helped Connects develop acceptance among classroom teachers, which allows for smoother interactions and transitions for students.”

CHALLENGES

Four school districts needed **a place for high school students struggling** in the traditional school environment. Connects Learning Center was created as an answer in 2001 as a charter school with one goal for students: Just get a diploma. The program has grown and is no longer a charter school. The Connects staff saw a need for an offering with more rigor—a program that went beyond the experience of “clicking through” material or completing worksheets. The evolution of Connects includes its **2009 implementation of Odysseyware digital curriculum**, which offers students an engaging and well-rounded educational experience. This includes **consistency of curriculum, customization for Career Pathways courses, and efficient use of resources**. Connects has the flexibility to deliver an engaging and well-rounded educational experience to **credit-deficient students, accelerated students, and those with special or medical needs**.

INITIATIVES

Consistency with Curriculum: As it has since 2009, Connects works with the districts’ high school department chairs to build courses in accordance with the material being taught in traditional classrooms. This same-quality, different-format approach has helped Connects develop acceptance among classroom teachers, which allows for smoother interactions and transitions for students.

Customization for Career Pathways Courses:

Odysseyware materials and courses are instrumental in assisting students as they figure out their areas of interest for potential careers. Once a student has narrowed their interest down to a particular subject or field, **the Connects team can create a project-based class that enables the student to earn credit while receiving hands-on experience**, thus building confidence and raising the student’s awareness of available options.

Special or Medical Needs:

The range of skill levels in this group is wide, and Odysseyware enables the instructors to customize and facilitate the coursework accordingly. **These personal learning paths help build skills to get back to grade level**. In some cases, students who suffer from mental health or addiction issues can split their day between Connects and an appropriate treatment program. This group also includes students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), who are in special education programs and may only be at a third- or fourth-grade reading level.

ELL Students: Connects usually has one or two English Language Learners (ELL students) at a time, but 16 to 17 other students are also present. Adamczyk appreciates **Odysseyware’s text-to-speech function, wherein students can read material as they hear it**, saying it “has helped out immensely.”

“With Odysseyware, students are more prepared for the next step. They’re not as scared to go to a college or [enroll in] a training program.”

Stacey Adamczyk
Lead Teacher



“I can create courses for one student or for an entire class of students, and these can align with electives from the home high school.”

Stacey Adamczyk
Lead Teacher

