

# Transforming English Credit Recovery: **EmpowerU Boosts Graduation Rates and Student Resilience**

## SITUATION

In an effort to address the needs of its high school students, Saint Paul Public Schools, the second largest school district in Minnesota, selected EmpowerU as a partner to provide mental health and academic support. With a goal of improving graduation rates, the district aimed to find a solution that could effectively **support students in their credit recovery program**.

Saint Paul Public Schools, serving over 33,000 students, faced increased need for credit recovery opportunities post-COVID. The district was looking for innovative ways to help the 3,000 students in its after-school credit recovery program, most of whom were 11th and 12th graders, continue on a pathway to graduation.



## PARTNERSHIP

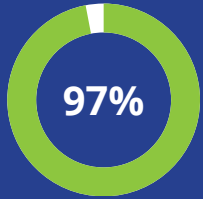
The partnership with EmpowerU began with a seed grant from the ECMC Foundation for summer programming, aimed at addressing the gap in English Language Arts (ELA) credit recovery. EmpowerU's online program, aligned with Minnesota state ELA standards, was implemented to support 120 students who enrolled in the program, and provided a **transformative solution to increase passing rates**.

Supported by school staff and EmpowerU's 1:1 online instructors, the initial rollout of EmpowerU was a great success that positively impacted pass rates and English content application. This led Saint Paul Public Schools to expand the EmpowerU partnership to support credit recovery initiatives districtwide for 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade students in need of ELA credit recovery.

Through EmpowerU's partnership, **Saint Paul Public Schools has seen improvements in student engagement and academic success**. The program's focus on **resilience and mental health** combined with academic support, helped students complete ELA credits needed for graduation and provided them with the tools and confidence they need to succeed in the future.

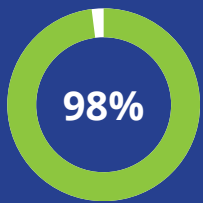


## EMPOWERU RESULTS



97%

Students made progress towards their goals and **did not need higher intervention**



98%

Students found EmpowerU **helpful to their well-being**



The credit-recovery program supported by EmpowerU **contributed positively to the district's graduation rates**



## TESTIMONIALS

*"This program was one I had been searching for. It allowed me to sleep at night knowing my students were getting daily support that was going to help them."*

**SCHOOL COUNSELOR**

*"The partnership with EmpowerU provided students access to English content connected to caring adults while focusing on socio-emotional support and learning - these are the kinds of enriching experiences we want our students to have as a part of their credit recovery experience."*

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

*"Taking this course really helped when balancing other courses that are required for graduation. I'll be using these techniques in the future. Thank you for having me in this course! Thank you so much for helping me graduate."*

**12TH GRADE STUDENT**