



# Supporting English Learners' Growth with Ed-Tech

San Antonio ISD implemented virtual learning tools that paved the way for more student engagement, excitement, and growth!



## Challenge

When COVID-19 hit and San Antonio ISD shuttered classrooms, the district had to move quickly and think creatively about how to meet the unique needs of its English learners. Educators had to rethink how they would deliver instruction and monitor progress while students were off-site.

## Solution

The district leaned on Istation as its edtech solution for students learning remotely.

Istation empowered educators to deliver personalized digital instruction both synchronously and asynchronously. Teachers taught virtual lessons to students in their native language, using Istation's authentic, culturally relevant Spanish literacy program. In parallel they used Istation's reading program in English to provide students with more instructional practice.

Despite the interruptions to classroom learning, teachers could still assess, monitor student progress, and provide purposeful intervention and instruction.

"We know that the best predictor for long-term advancement in English is going to be the quality and extension of instruction in the student's native language," said Olivia Hernández, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Learning, Language, and Literacy at San Antonio ISD.

Dr. Hernández said that Istation's biliteracy reports in particular made it possible for teachers to view side by side how students were performing in both languages. This teacher-friendly data and feedback made it possible for educators to provide the right reading interventions.

## Conclusion

Dr. Hernández points to the flexibility and adaptability of both the educators and the edtech tools they utilized as keys to success.

"I don't think any single child will miss instruction now," Dr. Hernández said. "If they are absent that day and can't get online, they can work asynchronously. It's incredible what we can do with technology."

## Background

- **District:** San Antonio Independent School District in Texas
- **Schools:** 100
- **Pre-K – 12 Student Population:** 48,000
- **English-Learner Population:** 20%