

A Virtual School with Double-Digit Growth: An Innovations Academy Impact Story

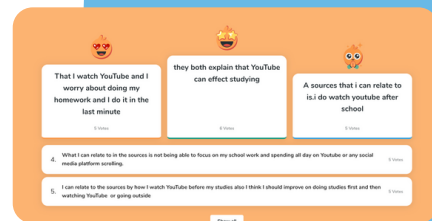
Focus Areas

- Engagement in Virtual Classrooms
- Peer-to-Peer Interaction and Confidence
- Writing Growth and Revision
- Test Prep and Participation

A Virtual School with Big Goals

Innovations Academy, a K–8 virtual school in California’s Palmdale School District, serves students who need an alternative learning environment—whether for personal circumstances, anxiety, or the fit of online learning. Students can enter at any time of the year, creating both challenges and opportunities. “We have rolling enrollment... I can get a student that’s starting today,” explained teacher Aaron Boenigk.

The team discovered Curipod through **EduProtocols**, well-known lesson frames designed to spark critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Curipod quickly became the perfect complement, helping Innovations move from the monotony of LMS slides to lessons that built community, confidence, and engagement.



From Participation to Progress

For virtual schools, even maintaining steady test participation can be a challenge. With students enrolling and exiting year-round, and many facing personal or academic hurdles that make consistent growth harder to document, any measurable gains are significant. At Innovations Academy, those gains weren’t just visible—they were substantial.

Innovations Academy had the **highest participation in their district**, and also posted measurable growth in both ELA and Math.

Attendance also climbed, another unusual achievement for an online program. “We were the only school in our district to hit 95% attendance,” said Principal Melissa Garcia.

Grade	ELA Growth (23/24 → 24/25)	Math Growth (23/24 → 24/25)
5th	+2%	+10%
6th	+10%	+12%
7th	+19%	+17%

How Curipod Made a Difference

Immediate, Actionable Feedback

Feedback was the breakthrough for Aaron and his co-teacher, Megann Kane. *“The immediate feedback for the students is super beneficial... I’m able to get through a lot of things a lot quicker,”* Aaron noted. Megann added, *“This generation needs instant everything, so getting that feedback right away means they’re not waiting for me to read six other kids’ first.”*

Building Test Prep Stamina

Curipod made state test prep more engaging and effective. *“Curipod creates sources to read and walks them through exactly what it’ll look like on the test,”* Amber explained. For extended responses, students learned to build stamina and write beyond just a few sentences. *“This pushes them to write longer,”* said Megann.

Engagement in a Virtual Setting

Rather than simply focusing on cameras or compliance, the team emphasized how engagement looks different in a virtual classroom. With Curipod, participation became visible, interactive, and inclusive, even for students who might normally sit silently in a traditional lesson. *“Curipod is one of the tools we use to increase engagement,”* said Amber Godinez. *“Kids with cameras off still participate.”*

Students especially loved voting features and podium rankings, with Megann sharing: *“They get proud when they hit top three, and many return after class to improve their score.”*

Flexibility Across Subjects

Teachers used Curipod far beyond ELA. *“We ran a session with 75 kids,”* Aaron shared. *“We use it in math with the whiteboard, in science, in history—the same platform across subjects.”* Its adaptability also worked with short 30-minute blocks. Amber noted, *“Curipod lets us break the monotony from the LMS ‘next page, next page.’”*

A Culture of Revision

Perhaps the biggest cultural shift was students taking ownership of revision. *“Students come back on their own time to revise because they want that higher score,”* Megann explained. What began as teacher-directed feedback became student-driven improvement—a rare and powerful change, especially in virtual learning.

Why It Matters

For Innovations Academy, Curipod isn’t just a teaching tool; it’s a bridge. It keeps students engaged, gives teachers instant evidence of learning, and fosters accountability alongside community.

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“It is a game changer,” Megann said. “Instant feedback is critical for buy-in, and attendance has gone up—kids ask, ‘Can we do a Curipod?’”