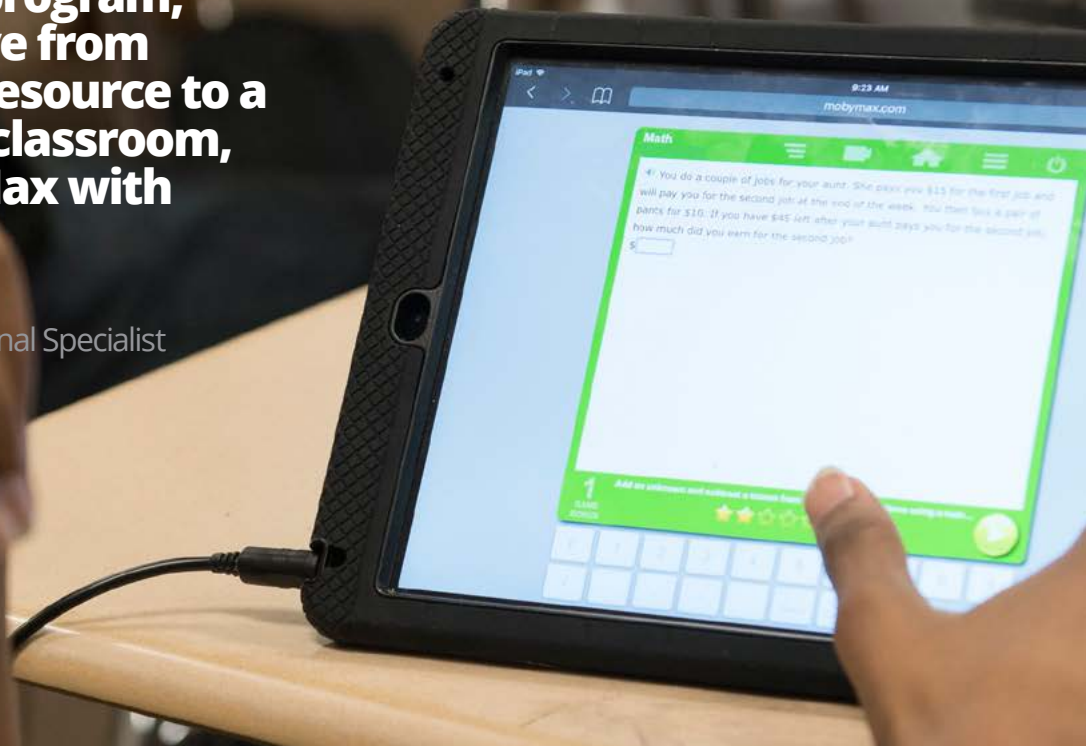




Arkansas School Uses MobyMax to Integrate Special and General Education

“ I had a student last year who used MobyMax, and by his interest in the program, he was able to move from special education resource to a general education classroom, and I credit MobyMax with that transition. ”

Karen Townsend,
Special Education Instructional Specialist
Yerger Middle School



Karen Townsend

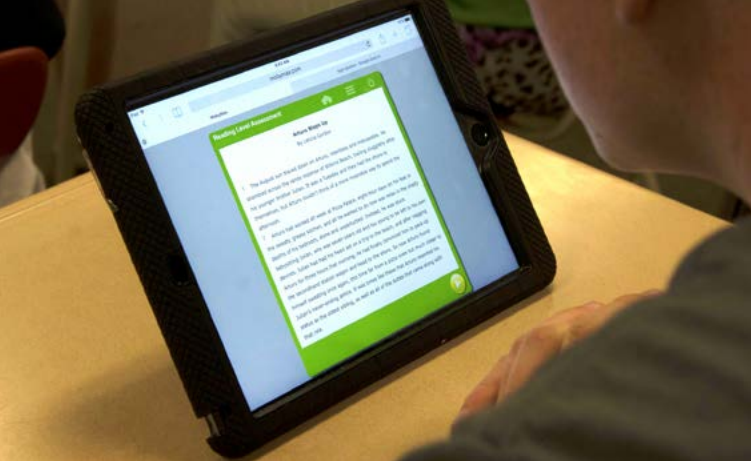
Finding the Right Teacher Tool

Special education teachers face a variety of challenges unique to their role within a school. These challenges include creating multiple lesson plans that align with different skill levels and abilities along with measuring progress associated with Individual Education Plans, all while coordinating efforts with general education teachers. Educators like Karen Townsend at Yerger Middle School in Hope, Ark. look for resources to enhance their ability to manage so many responsibilities.



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Teachers can assign formative, summative, diagnostic, unit assessments, and more.

To that end, Townsend, who has worked in special education for more than 20 years, sought to find a tool to help her succeed in the varying aspects of her job.

“Before I came to Yerger, I started using the free version of MobyMax when I was teaching high school special education,” said Townsend. “I liked it so well, especially the tools that it offered me as an instructor and the motivators it offered my students, that I just went ahead and personally purchased the pro license. It was a minimal investment for what it returned to my classroom.”

When Townsend began working at Yerger Middle School, she had already been using MobyMax as her own personal classroom tool for about a year. It didn’t take long for her new co-workers’ interest to pique when she illustrated all that MobyMax had to offer.

“Our math facilitator was in the room when I was conducting a lesson, and she became interested in learning more about MobyMax and how I used it with my kids,” explained Townsend. “Then, we looked more into the math and science component of the platform, and from that, my co-workers became more and more interested in using the tool. The district then purchased a license for the entire campus because we loved what MobyMax offered.”

Now, teachers at Yerger Middle School use MobyMax in both special and regular education classrooms, which Townsend said further helps integrate her students more fully into the regular education classroom.

Assessing and Filling Learning Gaps

As the special education instructional specialist at the school, Townsend wears many hats, but specializes in 7th and 8th grade literacy. She said that the students she works with read far below their grade level, and she even has one student who cannot read at all. With 25 students on her case load at varying reading and comprehension levels, Townsend’s biggest challenge is to make sure her



Students use individual iPads to access MobyMax .



“MobyMax allows me to spend more time working with students one-on-one, building on their specific strengths, and working to bolster any weaknesses.” Karen Townsend
Special Education Instructional Specialist



students can participate and reach some level of achievement at their grade level.

“I love Moby because it makes my job easier,” she said. “Because of the built-in assessment tool, students are evaluated and given lessons specific to their ability, so I don’t have to create several different lesson plans to target the different levels and abilities of my students. Rather, MobyMax provides me with a tool that assesses abilities or gaps and then assigns the appropriate lessons. The individual needs of my students are met with much less stress. That allows me to spend more time working with students one-on-one, building on their specific strengths, and working to bolster any weaknesses.”

Grade Level Increase per



Special Education students at Yerger Middle School climbed 2 grade levels in language in the first half of the school year.



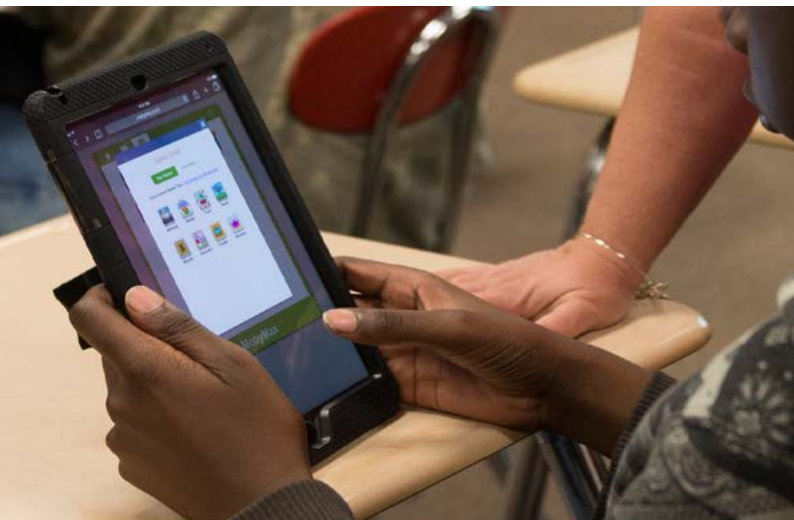
“MobyMax filled in all those gaps to make him truly believe he could do the work and, through that new-found confidence...”

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Special Education Instructional Specialist



Students are encouraged as they see their progress.

Townsend uses MobyMax's data reporting tool so she can more directly target the areas in which a student might need additional support. She pulls from that data in order to inform her Individualized Education Plans and annual reviews because it specifically identifies a student's strengths and weaknesses.



Students are motivated by earning game time.

Student Success

While MobyMax is a valuable tool from a teacher's perspective, Townsend also notes that her students respond very well to the software, which they access through individual iPads.

“I had a student last year who used MobyMax, and by his interest in the program, he was able to move from special education resource to a general education classroom, and I credit MobyMax with that transition,” she said.

According to Townsend, her student, who was below grade level in math began using MobyMax and grew to become very motivated and focused on his academic success.



Students love comparing badges.

“He took off using Moby,” she said. “At that point, he became self guided and intrinsically motivated. He really took charge of his own learning, which allowed me to sit back and assist him where necessary. It just



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Data reports target areas that need more support.

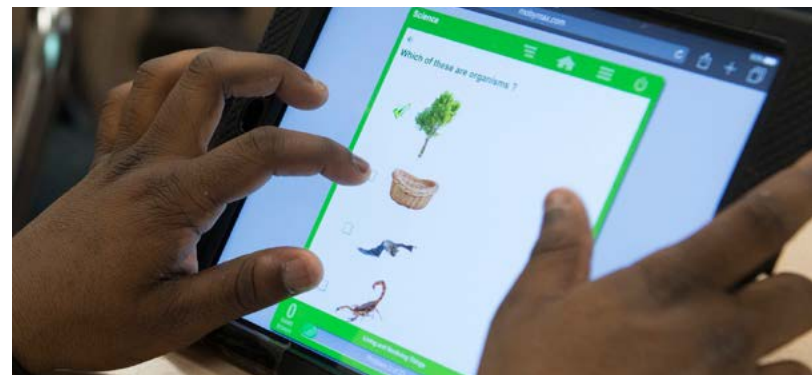
amazed me; he would come in every day, login to the platform, and just work.”

Townsend noted that this student came to the classroom every day excited to learn in part because he was able to see his daily progress and share that progress with all his teachers. Seeing these academic gains, she and the student had a conversation about him transitioning into a regular education classroom.

“My student was doing so well and was making fast gains,” she said. “So this year, we agreed to place him in the regular education classroom for three or four weeks as a trial, and he just blossomed. I know it was because of MobyMax.”

Townsend said that MobyMax went back and targeted those areas in which her student was weak, giving him additional time in those areas, which boosted his confidence as he was able to see the progress he made.

“MobyMax filled in all those gaps to make him truly believe he could do the work, and through that new-found confidence, self-led education, and motivation, he mastered the skills he needed in order to advance to the regular classroom.”



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