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Modernizing Course Materials Access

How Iowa Valley Community College District Upgraded Course Materials Delivery for a Rural, Concurrent Enrollment Institution

Impact by the Numbers

$22
per credit hour

95%
participation

71%
digital materials

District Snapshot

3,000+ students enrolled across 3 locations

Operates **two** community colleges within one district

50% of students are concurrent or dual-enrolled

The Vision: Iowa Valley Community College District (IVCCD) serves a diverse, rural student population, with nearly half of its students participating in concurrent enrollment. Delivering affordable, timely, and consistent course materials across learning environments presents unique challenges, particularly for a multi-campus district.

Prior to 2025, Iowa Valley's traditional campus stores operated at a deficit for three consecutive years. Students purchased materials individually, with access dependent on registration timing and physical inventory, which created challenges for those who registered late or changed schedules. At a point of organizational transition, IVCCD leadership reassessed course materials delivery and moved towards a more sustainable model to ensure day one access for every student.

> "We had three consecutive years of operating in the red, so we started to explore our options. After a year of planning and campus conversations, Fall 2025 was our first run with this model, and it was highly successful."
> **— Matt Schmit, Provost and Chief Academic Officer, IVCCD**

The Journey: Iowa Valley implemented **Affordable Course Content for Every Student's Success (ACCESS)**, its districtwide course materials program based on a Total Access model, following a one-year planning process that was initiated by senior leadership and led by a cross-functional committee. Total Access, also known as Equitable Access, is the course materials delivery model that gives students day one access to all required learning materials, no matter their major. Instructors, academic leaders, financial aid, and business office representatives collaborated to evaluate models and define the district's strategy.

After reviewing vendors in fall 2024, leaders selected the Total Access model in January 2025, and secured board approval in February before preparing for the ACCESS launch.

Academic champions, including the chief academic officer and campus deans, helped drive instructor alignment and adoption readiness.

Implementation required adjustments in high-cost programs, such as nursing and certain CTE pathways, after IVCCD leadership committed to including all programs in ACCESS. Through collaboration and clear communication, the district aligned on solutions and worked through program-specific needs.

> "Leadership wanted all programs to be part of this, so every student is treated the same."
> — Amber Bolen, Director of Student Success & District Instructional Content, IVCCD

The Outcome: The district launched ACCESS, providing required course materials for a flat rate of $22 per credit hour. The launch marked Iowa Valley's shift from a traditional store model to a districtwide Total Access program and ensured the district delivered materials automatically and consistently across campuses and high school partners.

Early results showed strong participation, with an opt-out rate of approximately 4 percent. Digital adoption increased significantly, rising from campus baselines of roughly 20 percent and 60 percent to 71 percent in the first semester and 91 percent in the following semester. Expanded use of digital materials improved responsiveness when students registered late or changed courses, reducing recovery time to hours and minimizing disruptions to student learning. The model ensured that students, regardless of location or registration timing, began class prepared.

After early trial and error with physical shipping logistics, the district further prioritized digital materials and routed the remaining physical inventory through campus libraries, which improved efficiency, strengthened coordination across departments, and reduced friction for concurrent enrollment partners.

> "If it's digital and you have a last-minute adjustment, the recovery from that is hours."
> — Matt Schmit, Provost and Chief Academic Officer, IVCCD

The Impact: ACCESS strengthened Iowa Valley's institutional model and replaced variability with consistency to ensure every student began the semester prepared.

> "It's not just books and one or two departments. Literally every department within your institution touches [the course materials process] in one way or another."
> — Matt Schmit, Provost and Chief Academic Officer, IVCCD

What's Next: Iowa Valley will continue working with high school partners to expand ACCESS participation, strengthen digital adoption, and support timely adoptions for long-term sustainability.

VitalSource + Iowa Valley Community College District
Supporting affordable and reliable course materials so students are ready on day one.

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