

How Indian River Central School District Empowers Students & Counselors with SchoolLinks

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Indian River Central School District

Located in rural Northern New York, Indian River Central School District serves 3,700 PK–12 students, with 750 enrolled at its only high school. About 65% of its students come from military families stationed at a nearby Army base, creating a highly mobile student population.

As part of its commitment to developing “productive, successful citizens,” the district sought a comprehensive, student-centered CCR platform to improve efficiency, enhance student engagement, and support personalized pathways for every learner—whether heading to college, trade school, or the workforce.

Transforming CCR with SchoolLinks

SchoolLinks provided Indian River with a “one-stop shop” for all stakeholders—students, counselors, and staff—streamlining the entire CCR journey from interest exploration to postsecondary planning. Key processes like four-year planning and course selection, once paper-based and labor-intensive, are now engaging, digital experiences that students embrace.

“Students have really embraced these steps in meaningful ways. With SchoolLinks, many completed their four-year plans before we even introduced the tool.” — Mary Ellen Hynes, Lead School Counselor

Student-Led Planning and Exploration

Students at Indian River quickly gravitated toward SchoolLinks—even before formal implementation. Its intuitive interface and relevant content encouraged early adoption and self-guided engagement, shifting CCR from a checklist to a personalized exploration experience. The platform has made academic planning and course registration more intentional, with students connecting their course selections to future goals and pathways.

Expanding Career Awareness Beyond Local Borders

In a rural community where exposure to diverse careers can be limited, SchoolLinks has helped broaden students' horizons through its extensive, interactive career exploration tools.

Through videos, pathways, and postsecondary search tools, students can discover opportunities far beyond their immediate environment—whether that's becoming an environmental scientist or researching out-of-state college programs.

“We do the four-year plan with our ninth graders. And sometimes that is so painful... But they were really into it. Many of them had already filled it out and had questions. The students have really embraced it.”

Key Takeaways

- **Student-First Engagement:** Students actively engage with CCR tasks before staff intervention—demonstrating ownership over their planning journey.
- **Process Modernization:** Digitized four-year planning and course selection improved accuracy, eliminated paper workflows, and freed up counselor time.
- **Personalized CCR Pathways:** SchoolLinks supports every student, regardless of postsecondary goals, with dynamic tools and real-time visibility into progress.
- **Expanded Career Exploration:** Students now explore a world of possibilities—beyond local industries—thanks to career video libraries and aligned pathways.
- **Efficiency + Impact:** Counselors have more time for 1:1 interactions, while students benefit from a platform built for autonomy and meaningful planning.

“It really freed up our secretarial staff... We just reached out to SchoolLinks and to our student management system and said, ‘Hey, we're ready for that import,’ and it happened.”

“We're using it quite frequently. When students are coming in with college and career questions, we're like, ‘Alright, let's hop onto SchoolLinks.’”

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