

**RIGHT AT SCHOOL & LONGWOOD CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT • MIDDLE ISLAND, NY**



CASE STUDY



Supporting Working Parents with Engaging, Meaningful Enrichment Programs for Children Before & After School



a place to
**BE A
KID!**





RIGHT AT
SCHOOL &



While many working parents rely on before and after school support for their children, it can be difficult to get to and from these programs, particularly if they're far from home.

"Our district is 53 square miles, which is large for Long Island. Fifty-six percent of our students are at or below the poverty level, and before and after school supervision is crucial to our families, especially for parents who work two jobs," said Michael Lonergan, superintendent of schools for Longwood Central School District (LCSD).

"Previously, a program was offered by SCOPE Child Care at one of our elementary schools. It was located at the far end of district, and it was parents' responsibility to get their children there."



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— Michael Lonergan, Superintendent

Previous Provider

20%

of Longwood Central schools served

With Right At School

100%

of Longwood Central schools served

Expanding before & after school programs

In 2015, LCSD began exploring how to expand options for families. “The Board of Education is very supportive of our parents and students. They asked me to inquire about expanding the before and after school program to each of our five elementary schools so all parents would have the opportunity to access these services in their area,” said Lonergan.

“The decision was the culmination of more than three years of gathering as much information as possible,” he said.

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“Based on my research, I recommended to the Board of Education that we consider Right At School. Representatives from Right At School presented to the Board and the community. They held open forums for parents to ask questions and become educated about the program. They explained what they had to offer, the pricing, and scholarship opportunities, and the community embraced it. There was very little pushback because the community was impressed with what they heard about Right At School and where it would be located.”

**CHOOSING
THE RIGHT
AFTER SCHOOL
PARTNER**

Providing engaging, meaningful enrichment programs

LCSD partnered with Right At School and began offering before and after school care in all five elementary schools in fall 2018. Offering this program is part of the district’s commitment to providing safe, engaging, and meaningful in-school extracurricular programs to enrich the lives of students, give parents peace of mind, and enable schools to continue to focus on their academic mission.

“The transition to Right At School was very smooth because of the organization and ongoing communication. It was practically flawless,” said Lonergan.

“It was seamless,” said Janine Rozycki, principal of Ridge Elementary School in LCSD. “Right At School worked very hard to make that face-to-face connection with parents and with our school, which was very helpful. They’re always accessible. They’re part of our community now.”

Increasing equity & attendance

In LCSD, Right At School gives parents of K-6 students flexible, affordable options ranging from one to five days a week, including morning or afternoon programs or both.

“Before, there were 65 to 70 students at the one location. We’re now close to 350 students with Right At School at all five locations,” said Lonergan. “Without a doubt, Right At School is helping to increase equity in our district. The flexibility has been a big help for parents. They can get the program at an affordable price and know that their children are being supervised in a safe environment. Students are completing their homework and they’re working on fun things with their friends in the afternoon instead of sitting in front of a television. It’s a tremendous asset.”



ENROLLMENT GROWTH

5X since partnering with Right At School

Supporting learning standards & improving homework completion

Right At School’s Disguised Learning™ pre K-8 curriculum supports learning standards in English language arts, literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, social-emotional learning (SEL), the arts, physical fitness, and service learning. Multi-sensory, multi-intelligence activities spark a joy for learning and encourage the development of 21st century skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, creativity, and leadership.

“The curriculum is closely aligned with what’s going on in our classrooms,” said Lonergan. “The teachers at Right At School have frequent conversations with our administrators at each site about the different programs the school is implementing and how they can help. They work closely together, which enhances what we do in the classroom.”





“The Right At School program is terrific,” said Rozycki. “The curriculum is academically based, but it’s fun. It weaves in learning skills that support what teachers are doing in the classroom. Students feel like Right At School listens to them and that they have a voice. They get to engage in activities that they have a choice in and that interest them.

Students look forward to going to Right At School. Parents like that when their kids come home, they have lots to share. They also enjoy knowing that their children are in a safe place having fun while they’re at work, which gives them peace of mind.”

“Right At School also helps support SEL, so it’s a good match for us,” said Lonergan. “For the students who participate before school, it sets the tone for day. They’re prepared to walk into the classroom and start their day. Students who go after school finish the day off with same type of caring and accountability. It enhances what they do in between those two sessions that much more.”

Homework completion has improved as well. “That’s one of the benefits of the after school program. Right At School provides daily homework support for students, so that strain isn’t there for working moms and dads when they all get home together. If you were to ask any of our parents, they would say that’s been very helpful,” said Lonergan.

Sharing revenue

Right At School provides its enrichment programs at no cost to a district. It handles all aspects of program administration and even shares revenue back with the district.

“We turn that revenue into scholarships for children and parents who could not otherwise afford the program, which has worked out tremendously well,” said Lonergan.



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Establishing an effective partnership

“When seeking a partner for before and after school programs, take the time to identify what your needs are and what the needs of families are within your community, and be conscious of the economics. Explain what your expectations are for their staff and program, and the communication you expect to have with them. That has worked very well for us in our partnership with Right At School,” said Lonergan.

“They are able to meet our needs, and follow what’s important to us and the way we run things here. They come into our school buildings and do exactly what we need them to do. We’ve been very happy with the program.”

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— Principal Janine Rozycki, Ridge Elementary School

District Data

7 schools
Grades K-12
9,400 students
<https://longwood.k12.ny.us/>

Student Demographics

0.4% American Indian/Alaskan Native
3.5% Asian/Pacific Islander
18.5% Black/African American
26.2% Hispanic/Latino
47.3% White
4% Multiracial
56% Free/reduced lunch

