



Dropout Recovery Pilot Program in Denmark on Track for 83% Graduation Rate

CHALLENGE

Education is a foundational tool for driving innovation, economic growth and a higher quality of life for citizens across the globe. However, not all students are equipped to succeed in the rigid structure of a traditional classroom environment. This can lead to high drop out rates among those who face economic, social or psychological disadvantages.

While many resources and strategies focus on dropout prevention, more communities have begun to recognize there is a crucial need to improve recovery efforts.



“The results of the educational program [with Ole Hjorth] have been so successful that we have recommended this education approach in other parts of the Municipality. This approach empowers teachers to present content in versatile pathways ideal for each student’s learning style and cognitive pace.”

- Tim Bjørn Eriksen, Head of Youth Dept.,
Municipality of Gladsaxe

SOLUTION

Gladsaxe Municipality, located near Copenhagen, Denmark, provides free secondary school academic training for young people over 18 who dropped out and have not earned an equivalent high school diploma or secondary school certificate. Many of these individuals had difficult experiences in school and lack the confidence, motivation or means to continue their education.

CuroGens Learning was contracted to design and implement a 1-year pilot program to help adult dropouts learn compulsory math and Danish language skills and then pass a secondary school equivalency exam.



PROCESS

The program addresses the needs of underserved students by facilitating individualized learning paths using inspiring pedagogical tools and experience-based examples. By no longer forcing students to adhere to a strict linear timeline, students can complete courses at their own natural cognitive pace.

CuroGens Learning's Advanced Learning Information System (ALIS) assesses and adapts coursework to align with each student's preferred learning strategy and existing level of knowledge. This allows students to focus on the subjects they need to learn and engage with content in a manner that best resonates with them.

The solution promotes retention, enhances and accelerates learning outcomes and fosters positive attitudes about learning in individuals who historically struggle in a traditional classroom setting.

RESULTS

Since August 2016, 60 students have begun participation at various times in the dropout training program (out of 68 total registered students, eight of whom have not yet begun sessions).

As of spring 2017, 27 students already completed their courses. Seventy percent of those students went on to the next level of education, while 15 percent entered traineeships and 7.5 percent earned jobs. Two students were referred to another adult education center to participate in dyslexia training, a course of action they might never have considered without the help of the program.

Twenty-three of the remaining 33 students, some of whom began lessons at the start of 2017, have completed their mid-terms and are on track to pass the qualifying exam by September 2017. This means that within one year's time, 83 percent of students will have graduated the pilot program.

The remaining 10 students are on temporary stand-by due to unforeseen life circumstances, such as incarceration, psychological treatment or parenthood. A key benefit of the CuroGens Learning solution is that these students will be able to pick up where they left off upon their return to the program without feeling as though they've fallen behind.

The CuroGens Learning solution empowers students by providing incremental goal lines that enable feelings of success all along the learning path, making them even more eager to get to the finish line. This approach allows students to thrive, find confidence, derive enjoyment from the learning process, and most importantly, develop the knowledge and skills necessary to lead a better life.



"Not everyone fits the mold of a traditional learner. The CuroGens Learning approach to dropout recovery creates enough flexibility and versatility to allow any student to gain confidence and feel successful throughout the learning experience. This better enables students to reach an academic finish line that will open up opportunities for a greater quality of life."

- Ole Hjorth, Chief Learning Officer
CuroGens Learning