

VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 2 • JULY 2026

# ACELLUS<sup>®</sup> JOURNAL

*INFORM • INSPIRE • UNITE*

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## THIS ISSUE

### WE WERE LOSING OUR KIDS

Learn how Lansing USD 469 in Kansas brought 180 students back to the district with Acellus Cyberschool.



■ GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT  
*Tyler Scott*

■ THE INVENTIONEERS  
*Acellus World 2026*

■ THE FEATURE  
*Learning From Home,  
Connected to Your School*

*International Academy of Science*

Welcome to the second issue of the Acellus Journal — the flagship monthly publication of the Acellus Learning System and the International Academy of Science. Every issue is built for you: the teachers, parents, students, administrators, and staff who make this community extraordinary. Here is what awaits you inside.

04

### From the Leadership: Insights and Perspectives

Two voices from inside Acellus. Executive Director Joshua Billings shares what is on his mind for the Acellus community. Editor Jackson Hunt reflects on two days at Acellus World — and what happened when he asked fifty people to share their story.

06

### Acellus Now: News & Happenings

Six hundred graduates. Science LIVE. The Robot Dance Competition. Dr. Todd Edmond live on stage. Two days in Kansas City that reminded everyone why Acellus World is the flagship event of the year. Here is everything that happened.

08

### Beyond Acellus: Graduate Spotlight

Tyler Scott was diagnosed with AML leukemia in 2022. He kept going anyway. This is the story of how he got to the stage at Acellus World — and where he is headed next.

10

### The Inventioners: Acellus World 2026

Thousands of students rolled up their sleeves at Acellus World and became inventioners for a day. Popsicle stick bridges, egg drop contraptions, soldered bug lights, and a Robot Dance Competition that nobody forgot. Inside the Inventioning Zone that brought the Acellus STEM-10 Initiative to life.

12

### Schools That Shine: Acellus in Action

Learn how Lansing USD 469 in Kansas turned around enrollment decline by re-engaging 180 students with Acellus National Cyberschool, boosted graduation rates from 87% to 96% and is achieving near-100% retention in their virtual school.

15

### Community Voices: Heard at Acellus World 2026

More than fifty conversations. Parents who wished they had found Acellus sooner. Students who stayed up until three in the morning to finish their homework — by choice. In their own words.

16

### Course Catalog, Programs, Careers & More

America: The Forging of a Nation makes its debut just in time for the Fourth of July — a new course that takes students to the historical sites where the American founding actually happened. Plus, programs, open positions, and everything else happening across the Acellus ecosystem.

20

### The Feature: A Scholarly Article

Across the country, families are leaving their local school districts. Acellus National Cyberschool was built to bring them back — giving families the flexibility they want without asking them to leave their community behind. A deep dive into how it works, what it costs, and what districts like Lansing USD 469 are seeing on the ground.

# ACELLUS JOURNAL

*Inform · Inspire · Unite*

*The Official Publication of Acellus*

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# FROM THE LEADERSHIP

## INSIGHTS AND PERSPECTIVES

# THIS IS WHAT WE BUILT

By **Dr. Joshua Billings** · Executive Director, Acellus Academy



This summer, Acellus World brought together 6,000 attendees from around the globe for a celebration unlike any in our history. Over the course of three commencement ceremonies, more than 600 graduates crossed the stage, each carrying their own story and a future they worked hard to earn. Looking in the faces of those graduates and their families, I saw the realization of a dream that began many years ago.

When Acellus Academy was founded, we were not yet accredited and the powerful technologies that accelerate learning were still being invented. We were in the early stages of searching for the exceptional teachers we now have, and our educational system was still evolving. Yet even then, our founder and President, Dr. Roger Billings, held a clear vision that shaped the steps that would follow.

From the outset, he saw the opportunity to build a different kind of school. His dream was to make our diploma stand for something. He wanted it to not only be a sense of accomplishment for students, but a key that would unlock the biggest opportunities and the greatest doors they would encounter in their lives.

One of the early challenges we faced was securing recognition from the United States military. Acellus Academy has now earned Tier-1 designation, ensuring our graduates receive the highest level of educational recognition upon enlistment, and many of our graduates are scoring in the 90s on the ASVAB, placing them in the top 10 percent of test-takers nationwide. This year, one of the graduates who walked the stage at Acellus World will attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, one of the nation's most selective institutions of higher learning.

Earning a diploma from Acellus Academy is rigorous and challenging, and that's by design. That rigor has translated into remarkable collegiate outcomes. Hailey Goris, a graduate from New Jersey, completed nine AP

courses at Acellus Academy and received more than \$500,000 in academic scholarship offers. Another member of the Class of 2026 will attend Johns Hopkins University this fall, one of the most selective institutions in the world. To put that in perspective, it is estimated that a majority of U.S. high schools have never placed a student into one of the nation's top-25 universities. With the achievements of the Class of 2026, Acellus Academy has now placed students at 15 of these 25 institutions.

As Dr. Roger Billings took the stage at Acellus World to deliver his address to the graduating class, he paused, as if to take in the moment, and then shared these remarks.

*"When I made the decision to start Acellus, I envisioned moments just like this. And I thought, what if there is someone that needs a different kind of school? What if there's someone that needs lessons taught in a different way, in fact, even customizing the way they're taught for each personality and each learning pattern. If we could help just one student get launched off into this life, it would be worth it. And now look at all of you."*

What we witnessed at Acellus World this summer surpassed anything I had dared to imagine. And yet, as Dr. Billings frequently reminds us, we are just getting started and our best is still ahead.

**Dr. Joshua Billings**

Executive Director, Acellus Academy

# WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ASK SOMEONE TO SHARE THEIR STORY

By **Jackson Hunt** · Editor, *Acellus Journal*

There was a sign that hung above our booth in the exhibit hall at Acellus World. Seven words.

Share Your Story in the Acellus Journal.

I had no idea, walking into that hall on day one, what those seven words were going to produce over the next two days.

This is my favorite part of the job so far. Sitting down with someone — a graduate, a parent, a teacher — and asking them to tell me about their experience with Acellus is not work I have to talk myself into. It is the reason I wanted this job in the first place. There is something that happens in those first few minutes of a real conversation that you can't manufacture any other way. People start out a little guarded, choosing their words carefully. And then something shifts. The question lands right, or they remember something they hadn't thought about in a while, and suddenly you're not doing an interview anymore. You're just two people talking about something that matters.

At Acellus World, I had that experience approximately fifty times in two days.

Back-to-back. All day. The booth was busy. Once that sign went up and the first few conversations happened, word seemed to spread through the exhibit hall on its own. People would walk past, stop, read those seven words, and decide they had something worth saying. Parents pulled up chairs. Graduates sat down still wearing their regalia. Some of them came with a story already organized in their head. Others didn't know what they were going to say until they started saying it.

Most of them were a little nervous at first. That's normal, and I've learned not to rush past it. The first couple of questions are just about getting comfortable. You ask about where they're from, how long they've been with Acellus, and what they're doing next. And then the nerves settle, and you ask the question that actually matters.

I asked one graduate about the challenges he faced during his time with Acellus. He told me he had been diagnosed with AML leukemia. He went through

treatments, extended hospital stays, and complications that would have stopped most people completely. He said it calmly, like he was describing something that happened to someone else a long time ago. I'll be honest — that one stopped me for a second. Not because he seemed troubled by it, but because he clearly wasn't. And then he told me what came next — because for him, there was a what came next. He kept going. He finished. And that weekend, he walked across the stage at Acellus World and received his diploma.

You will read his full story in the Graduate Spotlight section of this issue.

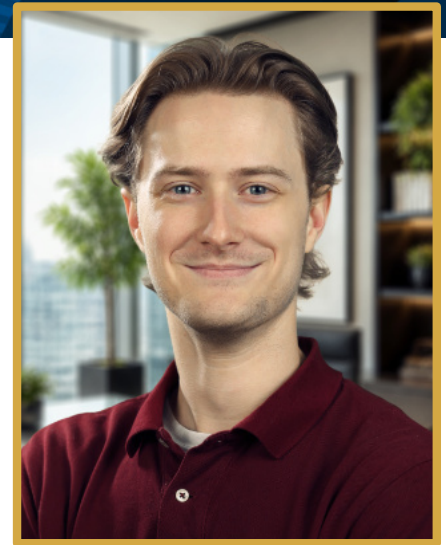
I interviewed parents at that booth too. Mothers who said they cried when they realized Acellus was finally working for their child. Fathers who wished they'd found it sooner. Families who drove hours to be at Acellus World because they felt genuinely connected to something. Fifty conversations over two days. Fifty reminders of why this journal exists.

Going into Issue 2, I find myself thinking less about what we're producing and more about what we're preserving. Every person who sat down at that booth brought something worth keeping. A moment. A turning point. A quiet win that the world outside the Acellus community might never hear about unless we do our job right.

That's what I'm here to do.

**Jackson Hunt**

*Editor, Acellus Journal*



### ACELLUS WORLD 2026

Kansas City, MO | May 23–24, 2026

There is a moment at Acellus World when you stop thinking of it as a conference and start thinking of it as something else entirely. It might happen when you watch a ten-year-old successfully solder her first circuit board, or when you hear a crowd cheer as a robot — programmed by a student who drove hours to be here — breaks into a dance routine. It might happen when you see a graduate in cap and gown walk across a stage in front of a room full of people who love them. However it arrives, the feeling is the same: this is education, but not the way most people picture it.



The Acellus World 2026 exhibit hall buzzes with activity as thousands of attendees explore hands-on learning stations and demonstrations.



A young attendee gets up close with one of the robot demonstrations on the Acellus World exhibit floor.

Acellus World 2026 came to Kansas City on May 23rd and 24th, and for two days the Acellus Conference Center became one of the most energetic places in American education. More than 6,000 students, parents, educators, and families filled the exhibit hall and spilled out across every corner of the event — drawn by hands-on learning, live demonstrations, in-person classes, and the kind of community that only exists when thousands of people who share a common belief find themselves in the same room at the same time.

The highlight of the weekend, for many, was the graduation ceremony. Hundreds of Acellus Academy Class of 2026 students walked the stage at the Acellus Conference Center (with multiple ceremonies to accommodate everyone), joined by their families for a moment that represented far more than a diploma. Graduates decorated their caps, signed Memory Books with fellow classmates, took photos, and celebrated achievements earned through unconventional paths — navigating illness, hardship, unique schedules, and circumstances that traditional school could never



have accommodated. Crossing that stage in Kansas City meant something specific and personal. The room knew it.

That same evening, Dr. Roger Billings and Dr. Pajet Monet took the stage together for a special edition of Science LIVE — bringing to life in person the storytelling and demonstrations that have captivated students around the world on screen. The Science Fair winners were announced during the broadcast, with students from across the globe competing for honors including the U.S. Naval Science Award and the Hawkins Medal of Science by the U.S. Army.

Out on the floor, the Proteges and Inventioners ran hands-on STEM challenges that kept students occupied, focused, and deep in the work of real engineering. Popsicle stick bridges. Egg drop contraptions. LED flashlights and marshmallow shooters. A Robot Dance Competition where students programmed the AC-D2 Acellus STEM Robot using Blockly coding — and where bonus points were awarded, appropriately, for costume design. Live animal encounters, humanoid robots, creative crafts, laser tag, bounce houses, pedal go-karts, and some of Kansas City's best food trucks filled the spaces in between.

Inside the classrooms, the schedule ran from morning to evening across both days. Dr. Todd Edmond debuted the Conspiracy Theories course live, walking attendees through some of history's most debated questions. Dr. Matthew Seerden



*Dr. Roger Billings and Dr. Pajet Monet pose with a student during the Science Live special edition at Acellus World 2026.*

led a workshop on the Gold Spark Learning Model. Pajet Monet delivered her keynote "The Light Is Lit." Joshua Billings taught a session on college scholarship strategies that drew on the experiences of students accepted to top 25 universities. There were classes on American Sign Language, fossil excavation, sourdough baking, beekeeping, and interpretive portraiture — a reminder that Acellus World is not just for educators. It is for everyone the Acellus community touches.

At the Acellus Journal booth in the exhibit hall, Editor Jackson Hunt spent



*Acellus Journal Editor Jackson Hunt interviews a graduate at the journal's booth in the Acellus World exhibit hall.*

two days conducting interviews with graduates, parents, and community members who stopped to share their stories. More than fifty conversations over two days. The Graduate Spotlight you will find on page 8 of this issue began at that booth — with a graduate who sat down, took a breath, and told a story worth keeping.

Acellus World 2026 was more than an event. It was a reminder of what this community is — thousands of people across the country, connected by a shared belief that every student deserves access to an education that actually works for them. The energy in that exhibit hall over two days carried the same conviction that drives every course, every feature, and every conversation happening inside the Acellus ecosystem right now. It will carry forward into classrooms, homes, and communities everywhere until the doors open again next year.



*Dr. Todd Edmond takes the stage at Acellus World to debut the brand-new Acellus Conspiracy Theories course in a live session with attendees.*

# BEYOND ACELLUS

## GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

### FROM AUGUSTA TO THE NEXT MISSION

#### THE BEGINNING

Tyler Scott was in the 10th grade when his family made the switch to Acellus. It was not his first time outside a traditional classroom — he had been pulled out in the third grade for another homeschool program before eventually returning to traditional school. But the traditional classroom never felt like the right fit.

"It's a class with one teacher and almost 40 students, sometimes 60 students in one class," he recalls. "With me, it's just a lot of noise. So, paying attention and hearing everybody's voices — I don't feel good at all."

The environment was the problem. Not Tyler.

His mother, Stephanie Walker, had watched him navigate those challenges for years. When she began looking for something different, she found Acellus through an advertisement. She showed it to Tyler. He describes it simply as "the best move ever since."

#### WHY ACELLUS

Tyler enrolled and completed both his 10th and 11th grade work through the platform. But the road to graduation was not straightforward.

In 2022, Tyler was diagnosed with AML leukemia. What followed was a period of extended hospital stays, treatments, and serious health complications. He lost time. He fell behind. He describes the period with the same matter-of-fact calm he brought to the rest of the conversation.

"We got set back in 2022 when I had cancer and all of that. And I was nervous. Got lost a little bit, couldn't really do a lot, missed a lot."



Tyler Scott, Acellus Academy Class of 2026, photographed at Acellus World in Kansas City on the day of his graduation.

#### QUICK FACTS

##### NAME

Tyler Scott

##### FROM

Augusta, Georgia

##### GRADUATED FROM

Acellus Academy

##### FAVORITE COURSE

History with Dr. Todd Edmond

##### CURRENTLY

Reserves / National Guard (pursuing; awaiting five-year post-cancer clearance for full military enlistment)

##### SUMMARIZED ACELLUS IN ONE WORD

Amazing

For his mother, the weight of that period was something different entirely. "As a mother, there were moments when the future felt uncertain," Stephanie wrote. "However, Acellus Academy allowed Tyler the opportunity to continue his education in a way that honored both his health needs and his dreams."

When Tyler was ready to come back, his mother did not simply hand him the platform and wish him well. She built him a plan. She showed him exactly what he needed to do and when — how many lessons he could complete per week, how the platform reset on Sundays, and how the credits would add up month by month. She broke it down until it was no longer overwhelming.

"At first it was like, ugh, I couldn't do all of that," he says. "And then she broke it down. She showed me — okay, if you bust out 40 today or 40 this week, you got next Sunday; it restarts. If you can bust out 40 in these courses either today or tomorrow or like three days, they all open back up Sunday. You can do it all over again."

That breakdown changed everything.

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### THE EXPERIENCE

Tyler built his own routine around the platform. He does not sleep well at night, so he would go to sleep around midnight and wake up at eight — woken not by an alarm clock but by his German shepherd, whose bark, he notes, echoes throughout the whole house. He would sit down to work between 10 and noon and push through every course set for that day, sometimes going until late at night.

The structure of the platform gave Tyler a rhythm he could work with. The way it capped daily lessons and reset on Sundays meant there was always a clear target — and a clear finish line at the end of each week. His mother would show him his progress from the parent side of the platform, the numbers ticking down toward completion.

The instructor who stood out to him most was Dr. Todd Edmond, teaching history. "He stuck out to me the most. Learning a lot of history and learning some history that I didn't really see with my other program. It felt good."

### FROM HIS MOM

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*"Thank you for helping make this moment possible for him. Your school became a part of a chapter in his life that we will never forget."*

— Stephanie Walker, Proud Mother of Tyler Scott

The financial courses also made an impression. His mother had given him financial insight at home, and what he learned through Acellus reinforced it directly. "It was like micromanaging and all of that. Just pushing me out there and getting me ready for the next step."

When asked what clicked — the moment he knew Acellus was working — Tyler pointed to the numbers. Watching a course that started at 300 lessons shrinking toward zero, week by week, showed him something no traditional classroom had ever shown him clearly: that he was moving forward.

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### WHERE HE IS NOW

On the evening of May 23, 2026, Tyler Scott walked across the stage at Acellus World in Kansas City and received his diploma. That same evening, he was in the audience for the Science Live event.

For his mother, the moment carried a weight that went beyond a graduation ceremony. "This weekend, as Tyler walks across the stage in Kansas City to receive his diploma, it represents far more than a graduation ceremony," Stephanie wrote. "It symbolizes resilience, healing, strength, and the triumph of never giving up despite life's obstacles."

His next goal is military service. Because of his cancer diagnosis, he must wait five years before he can enlist in full active duty. In the meantime, he is pursuing the Reserves and National Guard — two paths available to him now while he works toward that five-year mark.

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### HIS ADVICE

"It might look hard at first, but once you start getting the rhythm going, it's easy."

When asked what Acellus gave him that traditional school couldn't, Tyler's answer was direct: a start goal and an end goal. In traditional school he never felt like he could see where he was going. His mother changed that when she brought him to Acellus and showed him a finish line.

"When my mom brought me here, she said — this is our end goal. You can make it past these five months. If you make it past February to March, it's easy going down the road."

What did he learn from the experience that he still carries?

"Anything's possible."

# THE INVENTIONEERS

## ACELLUS WORLD 2026: INVENTIONEERING IN ACTION



## HANDS-ON STEM THAT COMES TO LIFE

Acellus World 2026 transformed the IAS campus in Kansas City into a living laboratory where thousands of students didn't just learn about invention — they became inventors. Over two days, more than 6,000 students, parents, and educators rolled up their sleeves for real-world Inventioning challenges. From soldering circuits to programming dancing robots, the floor buzzed with creativity, problem-solving, and the unmistakable joy of building something that works.

The Proteges and Inventioners led a full schedule of hands-on STEM challenges that mirrored the same spirit found in the Acellus STEM Logic Lab-1 and the broader STEM-10 Initiative. Students experienced the direct connection between logic gates, circuits, and physical outcomes — turning abstract concepts into tangible successes.

### Inventioning STEM Challenges at Acellus World

- Popsicle Stick Bridge Building Challenge — Designing and testing bridges that could support maximum weight.
- Egg Drop Competition — Engineering protective devices to keep an egg intact from increasing heights.

- Light It Up: LED Flashlight Build — Assembling functional flashlights using basic electronics.
- Marshmallow Launcher Fun — Building launchers that combined physics, design, and precision.
- Soldering Workshop — Including building your own bug light, giving students their first real experience with circuits and tools.
- IC Circuit Design: LED Chaser & Siren — Creating dynamic light sequences and sound effects with integrated circuits.

A highlight for many was the Robot Dance Competition, where students programmed the AC-D2 Acellus STEM Robot using Blockly coding. Bonus points were awarded for creative costume design, blending technical skill with artistic flair.

Inventioning is not about the project. It is about the moment a student realizes that the concepts they studied — logic gates, circuits, sequencing — are not just ideas on a screen. They are the building blocks of everything. At Acellus World, students did not just build things. They understood why they worked.

## QUICK FACTS

### EVENT

Acellus World 2026  
Inventioneering Zone

### PART OF

Acellus STEM-10  
Initiative & Logic Lab  
Experiences

### GRADE LEVEL

All ages (strong focus on  
Grades 3 and up)

### NO SCREEN REQUIRED

Many challenges  
emphasized physical  
building and immediate  
feedback

### CONNECTION TO STEM-10

Direct application of  
logic gates, circuits,  
sensors, and sequencing  
learned through the  
Acellus STEM Logic Lab-1

## Cool Projects Students Built at Acellus World

Students rose to the occasion with impressive creations:

- Sturdy popsicle stick bridges that held surprising weight
- Reliable egg drop contraptions using everyday materials
- Functional LED flashlights and bug lights
- Dynamic LED chasers and two-tone sirens
- Creative robot costumes and dances
- Motion-triggered and reaction-based builds inspired by the Logic Lab-1 principles

These projects proved once again that real Inventioneering happens when students move from screens to hands-on experimentation.

*“Watching students light up when their circuit works for the first time — that’s the moment everything clicks. They’re not just following instructions; they’re inventing solutions.”*

— The Inventioneers

This energy from Acellus World 2026 carries forward into classrooms everywhere. The same Inventioneering mindset — built on curiosity, resilience, and hands-on discovery — is available year-round through Acellus courses and future events.



# SCHOOLS THAT SHINE

## ACELLUS® IN ACTION

### HOW LANSING USD 469 IS WINNING BACK FAMILIES AND BUILDING SOMETHING BIGGER

*A Kansas school district is redefining what public school can look like — welcoming families back through a virtual academy and driving graduation rates from 87% to 96% with targeted interventions.*

#### QUICK FACTS

##### SCHOOL

Lansing USD 469

##### LOCATION

Lansing, Kansas

##### VIRTUAL PROGRAM:

Kansas Heartland Virtual Academy

##### POWERED BY:

Acellus® National Cyberschool

##### YEARS WITH ACELLUS:

3

##### GRADUATION RATE:

87% → 96%

##### FINANCIAL BENEFIT:

~\$4,000 net per virtual student

##### KEY CONTACTS:

**Marty Kobza,**

Superintendent

**Dr. Christina Hoverson,**

Director of Secondary Alternative Programming

**Miles Azzeh,**

Director of Teaching and Learning

#### THE CHALLENGE

When Marty Kobza arrived at Lansing USD 469 three years ago, the district was losing ground. Enrollment was declining. Community trust had eroded. Families were disengaging — some leaving for homeschool, others drifting to outside programs. And in Kansas, where funding follows the student, every family that walked out the door took resources with it.

Kobza knows this territory well. Across a 37-year career in public education — including 25 years as a superintendent and before that as a high school principal — what motivates him is going into districts and rebuilding them. He has done it in Wyoming, where he launched the Cowboy State Virtual Academy and watched enrollment grow rather than shrink. He has done it in Superior, Nebraska, and in Sheridan County School District #1 and Thermopolis, Wyoming. Two of those districts earned the distinction of Blue Ribbon schools. When he arrived in Lansing, he reached for a tool he had used before.

"One of the tools I've relied on to turn those districts around is Acellus," he says. "It's helped in a variety of ways: credit recovery, launching virtual schools, and reaching families we'd never been able to reach before. It's helped us rebuild community trust — especially with families who left the public schools with negative feelings, or who disengaged because of something they heard in the media — by giving them a real, authentic experience that shows these are good places. Combine all of that, and Acellus becomes something of a secret weapon in the rebuilding process."

#### THE DECISION

The district already had a virtual school when Kobza arrived — a contracted program serving about 26 students. It was small, it was limited, and it was not doing what a virtual school needed to do.



**Marty Kobza**  
Superintendent



"The traditional brick-and-mortar K-12 system doesn't work for everyone," Kobza says. "But building a virtual school that simply delivers the same methodology over video or Zoom is the definition of insanity — it's doing the same thing for students without actually changing how we reach them. Acellus gave us a way to truly change the delivery."

The answer was Acellus National Cyberschool — a hybrid program that allows families to learn at home through the Acellus platform while remaining fully enrolled in their local district. For Lansing, it became the foundation of Kansas Heartland Virtual Academy, led by Dr. Christina Hoverson, Director of Secondary Alternative Programming.

"Many families have lost trust in public schools, or want a different model for religious or political reasons — you name it," Kobza explains. "Acellus acts as a liaison between those families and the district, giving us the chance to show them what we're doing and rebuild that trust. We've actually seen some of these students return to brick-and-mortar, realizing, 'This isn't what I thought. The public schools are helpful, they're engaging, and they're using this product.'"

The rigor question comes up early with any district considering a virtual program. Kobza addresses it directly with his own teachers. "I ask teachers two questions," he says. "Before a student moves on in your class, do they have to score 80% on every single assignment? No. Do they have to master every concept before they move on? No. But that's exactly what Acellus requires of students working through the virtual program. The rigor is absolutely there — it's just a different method, a different way of thinking, a new lens."

## BY THE NUMBERS

Retention Rate:  
**VIRTUALLY 100%**

Writing Tutor Gains:  
**25% → 95-100%  
ON FINAL DRAFTS**

Vectored Instruction Gains:  
**18% AVERAGE INCREASE  
IN LESSON SCORES**



*A Lansing elementary teacher leads an interactive learning session with her students.*

## THE PROGRAM

Kansas Heartland Virtual Academy runs on the Acellus National Cyberschool model. Students learn at home through the Acellus platform, supported by district-employed academic learning coaches and Acellus teachers who check in daily. Families get the flexibility they are looking for. The district keeps the student — and the funding that comes with them.

Miles Azzeh, Director of Teaching and Learning, describes the experience of getting started as smoother than expected. "I'm a big baseball fan, so I'll put it this way — Acellus bats a thousand," he says. "Parents don't seem to have any issues with it, teachers are happy with it, and it works very well."

What Hoverson has built at the secondary level goes well beyond credit recovery — adding AP classes, ASL, and credit advancement options that a traditional schedule could not accommodate. The Writing Tutor has been a particular standout. "Students come in maybe at a 25%," she says, "and they leave at 95% to 100%."

For students who are behind, Vectored Instruction is the engine that drives recovery. "That is where Vectored Instruction® comes in," Kobza says. "It assesses where a student is on the fly, then goes back to reteach and fill the gaps, all while the student keeps moving forward with grade-level content. Vectored Instruction is something that is extremely unique

to Acellus versus other programs I have used. We've seen an 18% gain among students being Vectored on their retakes, and they're mastering content at high levels within the program. That's been a real game changer."

### THE RESULTS

The numbers coming out of Lansing USD 469 are hard to argue with.

"Our retention in the virtual school is close to 100%," Kobza says. "Unless a family physically moves out of state, we keep those students — either in the Kansas Heartland virtual program or by bringing them into our district, which several families have done. Parents aren't just satisfied — they're extremely satisfied."

The financial picture has shifted too. The district receives approximately \$5,600 per virtual student in Kansas, with a net benefit of around \$4,000 per student after program expenses. For a district that arrived with declining enrollment and tightening resources, that is a meaningful change.

"When I arrived, Lansing High School's graduation rate was about 87%," Kobza says. "Raising it took a combination of things — people working extremely hard at the high school and a new school-within-a-school model. We also transitioned away from some previous products to Acellus, using it for credit recovery and to support students in their areas of weakness. That's been the backbone. Combined with the hard work of our staff, it's moved our graduation



rate from 87% when we arrived to roughly 96% this year. Acellus has been a powerful part of that — a real driver of both our graduation rate and student achievement."

Students who complete Acellus courses and return to the traditional building arrive confident and on track. "We have not seen a single problem with a kid coming from Acellus to the high school or vice versa," Hoverson says.

### WHAT'S NEXT

"The impact of using Acellus in our Kansas Heartland Virtual Academy has come on several levels," Kobza says. "First, it's helped us think differently — to recognize there are other ways to approach education. Education is shifting from the old, straightforward, industrial-era model to something more like a menu, where families have choice. And there's a full continuum: it can look much like school always has, which still works for many students; it can be fully virtual; or it can be something in between. Acellus is helping our district think through what we can be, what we can become, and what we can offer our community."

"It's a tremendous tool, and our community is seeing us approach it with humility," he continues. "We don't have all the answers all the time, there are other ways of doing this, and we're going to bring those options to you. Superintendents across the country have to embrace that. School choice can feel like a bad word — the idea that funding follows a student from one district to another — but it can also be a choice you offer internally. You can provide that choice within your own district, without worrying about students leaving for someone else. That's how you create a win-win."

"The win is for the student and their family — a chance to engage with the district as a homeschool student, to keep learning after a suspension or expulsion, or to recover credits and get back on track for graduation, opening doors for the rest of their life. Those are all engagement opportunities we need to seize. There's a financial win for the district, too. And ultimately, the student is going to get their education somewhere — it can be with you, because you were humble enough to open yourself up to other options, or it can be with someone else."

"At Kansas Heartland Virtual Academy, we're happy to engage with those students and take them. So that really becomes the impetus for the local district to decide: we want to keep our families, we want them here, we want to engage with them — or they can get a wonderful opportunity and a wonderful education at the Kansas Heartland Virtual Academy."

# COMMUNITY VOICES

## HEARD AT ACELLUS WORLD 2026

Parents and graduates share what Acellus has meant to their families — in their own words, Kansas City, May 2026.

Over two days at Acellus World, more than fifty people sat down at the Acellus Journal booth and shared their stories. These are some of the voices we heard.

*“I caught her at three o’clock in the morning on the computer. She was doing her homework.”*

Acellus Parent · Acellus World 2026

*“This is the right school for us. We’re gonna be here for as long as we can.”*

Acellus Parent · Acellus World 2026

*“When she started it, it was like a 360. I wish we would have found it sooner.”*

Acellus Parent · Acellus World 2026

*“She’s working at her pace instead of just working with everyone else.”*

Acellus Parent · Acellus World 2026

*“When we tell her, ‘Hey, let’s go somewhere.’ She says, ‘I got homework I gotta do.’ What kids say that?”*

Acellus Parent · Acellus World 2026

*“He’s not bored. He’s able to go on about his day and not feel that he’s stressed out.”*

Acellus Parent · Acellus World 2026

*“It’s so obvious how passionate everyone is about the education that they are offering.”*

Acellus Parent · Acellus World 2026

**“If you haven’t done it, you’re already too late. Go ahead and do it. You definitely can’t go wrong with it.”**

Acellus Parent · Acellus World 2026

# COURSE CATALOG

NEW & UPDATED

## AMERICA: THE FORGING OF A NATION

### NOW AN ACELLUS COURSE

A new course that takes students to the places where American history actually happened.

### ABOUT THE COURSE

America: The Forging of a Nation is a one-semester course spanning seven units and approximately 90 lessons. It traces the American Revolution from colonial foundations through the establishment of the Constitution — rising tensions with Britain, the Declaration of Independence, the struggles and victories of the Continental Army, George Washington's leadership, the intellectual work of the Founding Fathers, the creation of the Constitution, and the triumph at Yorktown.

What sets this course apart is where it takes students. Rather than learning about these events from a textbook, students virtually visit the historical sites where they actually unfolded. In Boston they see Faneuil Hall where patriots gathered, the Old North Church where lantern signals sparked revolution, Bunker Hill where Americans proved their courage, and the Granary where heroes rest. In Philadelphia, they stand at Independence Hall where the Declaration was signed, and Valley Forge where an army endured unimaginable hardship. These virtual experiences transform abstract history into vivid reality.

Students also engage directly with the documents that shaped the nation — Thomas Paine's Common Sense, The Declaration of Independence, The Federalist Papers, and George Washington's own letters. Rather than memorizing dates in isolation, students work as historians, evaluating primary sources for perspective and bias, tracing cause-and-effect relationships, and constructing evidence-based

### COURSE DETAILS

#### COURSE TITLE

America: The Forging of a Nation

#### SUBJECT AREA

History / Social Studies

#### GRADE LEVEL

High School (Grades 9–12)

#### LENGTH

One Semester

#### UNITS

7

#### SKILLS DEVELOPED

Evaluating primary source documents, tracing cause-and-effect relationships, analyzing historical leadership decisions, synthesizing information from multiple sources, constructing evidence-based arguments

arguments about historical significance. This direct engagement with foundational texts develops sophisticated skills in document analysis, interpretation, and the ability to extract meaning from historical evidence.

The course covers the Founding Fathers whose vision for a nation rooted in universal human rights transcended the limitations of their era. These leaders set in motion the ideals and principles that would eventually lead America to become a beacon of freedom for the world. The seeds they planted — the conviction that all people are endowed with inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness — became the moral foundation that would guide the nation. But this course also illuminates the courage of average Americans who breathed life into those ideals: the farmers and laborers who took up arms, the ordinary soldiers who endured Valley Forge, the merchants and craftspeople who sustained the cause. Students come to understand that America's greatest story emerges from the convergence of visionary leadership and the extraordinary sacrifice of everyday citizens who believed so deeply in freedom that they risked everything to secure it.

Through carefully designed instruction, students progress from basic comprehension to complex analysis. They learn to recognize propaganda and persuasion techniques used by patriots and the Crown alike. They analyze military strategy and evaluate Washington's decisions under impossible circumstances. They compare competing visions of government and understand the compromises that made the Constitution possible. They trace how economic grievances, philosophical ideals, and human determination converged to create something unprecedented: a nation dedicated to the proposition that all people are created equal, endowed with inalienable rights.



## WHY IT MATTERS

This course is ideal for high school students seeking a deep understanding of America's founding. It fulfills core history requirements while inspiring the kind of informed patriotism that comes from genuinely understanding the sacrifices, ideals, and achievements that forged our nation. Students will finish not merely having learned facts but transformed by encounters with one of humanity's greatest stories.



## INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT

### ***Social Studies & History***

Dr. Todd Edmond brings more than 30 years of teaching and administrative experience to the Acellus platform. Known for dynamic storytelling and crafting impactful resources for students, he has created and taught high school and AP courses in history and related subjects through Acellus. In 2013 he was selected as a Henry Ford Teacher Fellow for his innovative approach to education. In 2025 he received his Doctor of Education degree from the Institute of Science and Technology.



# OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED INITIATIVES OF ACELLUS

## ACELLUS ACADEMY



Acellus Academy is a fully accredited online school serving K–12 students who need a flexible, personalized alternative to traditional education. Using the full Acellus curriculum, students learn at their own pace through engaging video-based lessons taught by qualified instructors.

With features like Vectored Instruction, Acellus identifies learning gaps and provides targeted support to help students achieve mastery before moving forward. Parents can easily monitor progress, while students have the freedom to learn from anywhere — whether at home, traveling, or balancing unique schedules and opportunities.

Acellus is ideal for families seeking a rigorous home-based education option, including students with medical needs, performance athletes, and those in rural areas with limited course access. Acellus students have gone on to earn college scholarships, complete dual enrollment programs, and graduate early.

Enrollment is open year-round. To learn more, visit [AcellusAcademy.com](https://www.AcellusAcademy.com) or [Acellus.com](https://www.Acellus.com), or call (866) 684-6127 to speak with an enrollment advisor.

## ACELLUS FOR SCHOOLS

### CLASSROOM-READY IMPLEMENTATION

Acellus equips public and private schools with a flexible, standards-aligned platform designed for in-classroom and blended learning. Schools use it for core instruction, intervention, credit recovery, special education, gifted programs, or STEM — integrating seamlessly without disrupting schedules.

When your school signs up, you can expect:

- Fast Onboarding — Quick setup, staff training, and dedicated support.
- Flexible Classroom Models — Including Gold Spark, the popular 40/20 blended model (40 minutes adaptive digital instruction + 20 minutes teacher-led collaboration and higher-order activities).
- Teacher Empowerment — Real-time dashboards and automated tools that free educators to focus on mentoring and instruction.
- Proven Outcomes — Strong gains in engagement, mastery, and test scores across diverse populations. Acellus complements strong teaching, helping schools differentiate instruction and keep every student on track for graduation.

To learn more, contact [partnerships@Acellus.com](mailto:partnerships@Acellus.com) or visit <https://www.Acellus.com/schools/>.



# JOIN OUR TEAM

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

### WORK AT THE HEART OF EDUCATION INNOVATION

The International Academy of Science is a mission-driven organization that believes every student deserves access to an excellent education. Our team is made up of educators, engineers, designers, and support professionals who share that belief and work every day to make it real. Working at IAS means working somewhere where the mission is the reason — not a paragraph in an employee handbook.

Current openings are listed below. For the most up-to-date list of positions and to apply, visit [Acellus.com/careers](https://www.acellus.com/careers) or contact KC Career Makers at [info@kccareermakers.com](mailto:info@kccareermakers.com).

## CURRENT OPEN POSITIONS

*We offer competitive compensation, meaningful work, and the satisfaction of contributing to something that genuinely changes lives. We look forward to hearing from you.*

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE TEACHER

##### EDUCATION, ON-SITE

In this role, you will play a key part in developing and refining online course content to ensure it meets high educational standards and inspires learners. This role is ideal for individuals with a degree in environmental science who are eager to take their expertise into the world of digital learning.

#### FRONT END DEVELOPER

##### ON-SITE

Build beautiful, easy-to-use applications and interfaces. Use HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and tools like React to create user-focused, high-performance web applications and work with a creative team on exciting projects.

#### CALL CENTER APPRENTICE

##### SERVICE, ENTRY-LEVEL, ON-SITE

In this role, you'll receive hands on training in a customer service apprenticeship. You will provide encouragement, and resources to parents homeschooling their children.

#### BIOLOGY TEACHER

##### EDUCATION, ON-SITE

In this role, you will play a key part in developing and refining online course content to ensure it meets high educational standards and inspires learners. This role is ideal for individuals with a degree in biology who are eager to take their expertise into the world of digital learning.

#### PHYSICS TEACHER

##### EDUCATION, ON-SITE

In this role, you will play a key part in developing and refining online course content to ensure it meets high educational standards and inspires learners. This role is ideal for individuals with a degree in physics who are eager to take their expertise into the world of digital learning.

# LEARNING FROM HOME, CONNECTED TO YOUR SCHOOL

How Acellus National Cyberschool is giving families the flexibility they want — without asking them to leave their community behind.

**A**cross the country, public school districts are watching families leave. Some are attempting to teach at home on their own. Others are enrolling in large online charter schools or statewide virtual programs that are authorized to pull students regardless of where they live. When a student leaves, the district loses more than a name on a roster: it loses the per-pupil funding that keeps teachers employed and programs running. In many districts the cumulative effect has meant cut positions and, in extreme cases, closed buildings.

Acellus National Cyberschool was built to change that equation.

It is a hybrid program — which simply means it combines two things. Learning at home, online, through the Acellus Gold platform at the student's own pace, with lessons, practice, and a real teacher supporting them. And staying connected to the local school, where the student remains a full member of the district and can join in-person activities and events, so they don't miss out on the social side of school. Check with your school for availability.

*Families no longer have to choose  
between flexibility and belonging.  
Their child can have both.*



### The Problem It Solves

Independent study is no longer a fringe choice. Since 2020, families have grown comfortable with learning that happens outside the traditional bell schedule, and many now expect their district to offer a flexible option. When it doesn't, they look elsewhere.

Here is the part that surprises many superintendents: districts that offer their own flexible option tend to keep students rather than lose them. As one superintendent put it, "I was worried that offering a cyber school option would cause families to leave our brick-and-mortar schools. So far the opposite is happening."

A district-supported program keeps families inside the system, where a connected student can be drawn back into in-person classes and activities over time. When a family in a district's boundaries begins enrolling in a cyber school, the system lists the schools available to them at their address — and the local public district is always listed first. Districts that participate hold that home-field advantage. Districts that offer nothing are simply skipped over.

### How It Works

The program pairs the Acellus Gold learning platform with district-employed, credentialed teachers who lead

weekly live lessons and provide the human connection that makes learning stick.

Four capabilities sit at the core of how Acellus Gold works:

**Vectored Instruction®** — When a student struggles, the cause is usually not the current lesson; it is a missing building block from an earlier year. Vectored Instruction reaches back as far as necessary to find that gap, builds a bridge of targeted instruction to close it, and brings the student forward — all while keeping them enrolled in their grade-level course and on track for on-time graduation. A tenth grader stuck in algebra because of a fraction concept missed in fifth grade is taken back, caught up, and returned to grade level, without being pulled out or labeled "behind."

**Prism Diagnostics®** — Most systems mark an answer wrong and move on. Acellus examines which wrong answer a student chose, because wrong answers follow predictable patterns that reveal the specific underlying misconception. Two students who miss the same question for different reasons receive different, precisely targeted help — in the moment, not weeks later.

**The Gold Store** — Students earn Gold credits for mastering concepts and completing work, and redeem them for real merchandise — hoodies, backpacks, STEM kits, and Acellus gear. The point is not the prizes; it is the lesson that effort produces visible reward. Engagement and recognition that once belonged to games and apps are redirected toward learning. Check with your school to confirm participation.

**The Success Zone** — Real-time reporting shows whether each student is maintaining satisfactory progress, giving teachers and administrators an



early, objective signal of who needs intervention or re-engagement.

### What It Costs Families

Nothing out of pocket.

Acellus National Cyberschool is paid for by the local school district as part of the public education every child is already entitled to. There is no tuition and no out-of-pocket cost to enroll. The child is a public school student — they are simply learning in a more flexible way.

You don't have to be the teacher either. Your school provides support specialists who are trained to help students studying at home. They'll help families get set up, understand their child's progress, and work through any technical questions — so parents can be their child's encourager, not their full-time instructor.

### What It Asks of Districts

This is the question district leaders ask most: can our teachers and administrators actually run an independent study program?

Having now worked with hundreds of schools, the answer is an unequivocal yes — because districts are not doing it alone. Acellus takes on the startup function of helping find students and getting them enrolled, which is the hardest part for a district to stand up from scratch. That leaves educators free to do the high-value work only they can do.

The division of responsibility makes that concrete. Acellus leads outreach and digital marketing, guides families through enrollment, delivers the full courses with built-in lessons and assessments, grades assignments automatically, helps families get set up in the system, and provides onboarding and training. The district confirms eligibility and residency, reviews course selections to ensure graduation requirements are met, watches the dashboard and intervenes when a student needs a nudge, and at its option leads weekly live Special Lessons — the higher-order, project-based sessions that go deeper than a screen can.

Read that from a teacher's perspective. The exhausting parts of running a program — building curriculum,

chasing down families, grading stacks of homework, and answering technical questions — are handled. What remains is mentoring, motivating, and leading. The human work that machines cannot do.

Dr. Roger Billings, President of the International Academy of Science, puts it plainly:

*"The answer is not technology or teachers. The answer is technology and teachers, working together in a way that has never been possible before."*

### What a Teacher's Day Actually Looks Like

Each student is assigned a district-employed, credentialed Supervising Teacher. A common starting ratio is one Supervising Teacher for roughly every 25 students. On a typical day, the Supervising Teacher checks the Acellus dashboard, which automatically sorts students by who needs help most — a student in the red zone gets attention first. They respond to student messages in the platform for help, clarification, or encouragement. At the district's option, teachers host one live video Special Lesson per week — using resources Acellus provides, including project-based learning, discussion, and hands-on activities that go deeper than a screen can. For grades K through 3, those live sessions happen daily in shorter sessions.

Notice what is not on that list: writing curriculum, building assessments, or grading the bulk of coursework. The platform and the Acellus teachers handle those. The Supervising Teacher is freed to mentor, motivate, and lead — the human work that machines cannot do.

Teachers who have used Acellus before are typically up and running overnight. Teachers new to the platform complete the new-teacher course in less than a day and are usually able to use the interface successfully right away. Throughout, an Acellus support and training team works alongside the local team to resolve problems as they arise.

### What Students Keep

Every student enrolled in CyberSchool remains fully enrolled in their local district. They earn their district's diploma, on the same graduation requirements as their classmates. They can take part in school life — sports, band, theater, clubs, and events the school chooses to extend to them.

The coursework is also college-ready. Acellus has dozens of courses certified by Quality Matters and has met University of California college-preparatory standards since 2015. AP course options are available, and core high school courses can be recognized by the NCAA for student athletes.

## QUESTIONS FAMILIES ASK MOST

### My child has special learning needs. Can this work?

The personalized approach is designed to support a wide range of learners. The district remains responsible for the supports the child is entitled to, so families should share their child's needs with the enrollment team.

### Will my child be isolated?

No — that is the whole point of the hybrid design. The child can join the same in-person activities as their peers and connects with their teacher through weekly live lessons and ongoing messaging.

### What about college and sports?

There are AP course options, and core high school courses can be recognized by the NCAA, so student athletes get credit for their work toward eligibility.



### What It Looks Like In Practice

The proof is in the districts already running it.

Lansing USD 469 in Kansas arrived at Acellus National Cyberschool three years ago with a familiar problem — declining enrollment, eroded community trust, and families leaving for other options. Today, the district's graduation rate has climbed from 87% to 96%. Retention in their virtual academy, Kansas Heartland Virtual Academy, is virtually 100%. Students being vectored are seeing an 18% average increase in lesson scores. And students who came in scoring 25% on first drafts are leaving the Writing Tutor at 95% to 100%.

Superintendent Marty Kobza has used Acellus to turn around districts across three states. He describes what the Cyberschool model made possible in Lansing plainly.

"Many families have lost trust in public schools, or want a different model for religious or political reasons — you name it," he says. "Acellus acts as a liaison between those families and the district, giving us the chance to show them what we're doing and rebuild that trust. We've actually seen some of these students return to brick-and-mortar, realizing, 'This isn't what I thought. The public schools are helpful, they're engaging, and they're using this product.'"

For Kobza, the choice every district faces comes down to a single question.

"The student is going to get their education somewhere — it can be with you, because you were humble enough to open yourself up to other options, or it can be with someone else. At Kansas Heartland Virtual Academy, we're happy to engage with those students and take them."



**Dr. Roger Billings**

*President, International Academy of Science*

### Will my child be behind if they ever return to a regular classroom?

The goal is the opposite. The child stays on grade level and on track for on-time graduation, and the platform actively closes any gaps from earlier years. Because they remain enrolled in the district the whole time, returning to in-person classes is straightforward.

### How much time will this take from me as a parent?

Far less than teaching at home alone. The platform delivers and grades the core lessons, a district teacher guides the child, and support specialists are there for parents. The parent's role is to encourage and stay involved — not to be the full-time instructor.

# ACELLUS<sup>®</sup> JOURNAL

*INFORM • INSPIRE • UNITE*

Every student  
deserves a path  
forward.

**ACELLUS BUILDS IT.**

**ENROLL TODAY**

[Acellus.com](https://www.Acellus.com)