



How Dickinson High School uses Securly Flex to tutor all 3,810 students during the school day, no bus ride required.



Courtney Ramirez
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Securly Flex is a flex period management tool that helps schools organize, schedule, and track student participation in intervention, enrichment, and extended learning. Teachers draft students by priority, students self-select into sessions, and administrators see where every student is in real time, all from one platform.

By the numbers

Dickinson High School built Gator Time, a 30-minute intervention block powered by Securly Flex, so students could get academic help during the school day instead of after the buses leave. The results below track three years of that work, from state test scores to campus accountability to daily detention numbers.

+7

Texas accountability rating points gained in two years, 82 to 89.

+51 pts

Biology STAAR retester passing rate, 25% to 76%.

3,810

Students with access to in-day intervention.

~100 → ~15

Daily detention average, down roughly 85% since Gator Time began.

"Flex gave us the ability to shift tutoring into the school day so every student gets help, not just the ones with a ride home. First semester, I had students making 30s and 40s on their chemistry tests. Now I'm calling their parents telling them to take this kid to get ice cream because she aced the last four exams. She's tutoring other people now. Flex is the most 'no child left behind' thing we do." — Delaina

Challenge

When the bus leaves, the opportunity leaves with it

Dickinson High School is the only high school in a district that stretches across five Texas cities and roughly 30 square miles. Ninety buses cycle through campus every day, and for most students the ride home is long. Some live 25 minutes away.

When the final bell rings, those students are headed home, no matter how many teachers are willing to stay back for extra tutoring. The school had tried to close that gap before Flex: a mega lunch period with open movement, a tutorial block run on spreadsheets, an alternating blue-day/white-day schedule with loose structure. None of it stuck.

"Before, it was a hot mess. Too much freedom, an hour to go wherever you want. Our place was too big, it wasn't safe. And the spreadsheets were not sustainable for a campus of 3,800 students." — Courtney

Dickinson had teachers willing to intervene and students who needed the help. The missing piece was a way to connect the two during the school day, at scale, without the whole thing falling apart.

Solution

Securly Flex powers "Gator Time," a 30-minute daily block

Dickinson carved five minutes from each class period to build a dedicated 30-minute block called Gator Time, managed entirely through Securly Flex. The model grew over three years: Year 1 was spreadsheet-based and admin-run, in Courtney's words "not sustainable." Year 2 introduced Flex, with teachers drafting students through the platform. Year 3 added student self-selection on top of teacher drafting, which brought stronger buy-in.

A tiered priority drafting system

Flex's priority levels let Dickinson build a hierarchy that reflects the whole student.

"The highest levels of drafting are our counselors and behavior coaches, because if you have a social-emotional issue or a behavior issue, academic intervention is not what you need first. You need to get regulated first. Then we have our priority classes, the state-tested subjects. Then electives. And if kids aren't drafted, they get to pick where to go." — Courtney

Every morning during homeroom, students log into Flex to see their placement, either where they have been drafted or the sessions they can choose from. Teachers label sessions by TEKS, the Texas state standards, which lets them place students by need. When a student masters a standard on the next assessment, the teacher can see the intervention worked and move them forward.

Voice and choice, even for freshmen

At first the school left freshmen out of self-selection, assuming they were not ready. Teachers pushed back.

"The teachers said, 'We're not teaching them to own it. We're still babying them.' Our mission is that everyone is college, career, and adult-world ready. If you don't know how to make a choice and know why that choice is beneficial for you, we're not aligned with our mission. So we expanded Flex to freshmen, and I think we got a lot more buy-in." — Courtney

The first three weeks of each year are spent teaching expectations before Gator Time launches, a deliberate onboarding period that sets the tone for everything after it.

From the classroom

One teacher, every student she's worried about, in one place

For Delaina, a first-year chemistry teacher at Dickinson, Flex changed how she reaches students who are falling behind.

"If certain students are falling behind, I can find out quickly, go on my computer, log into Flex, type in their name, and draft them for the following day. I can schedule different activities: chemistry tutoring Monday through Thursday, astronomy on Friday. I can have a block specifically for test retaking, or a small group for something they're not understanding. Everything is right there. I can see where they're supposed to be." — Delaina

The priority system protects instructional time as much as it directs it.

"When I'm drafting them, I can see if they've already been drafted elsewhere. If that has priority, I can't pull them, which is convenient because I know if they're actually going to make it or not. But being a chemistry teacher, a core class, I have priority over other classes. So if I need to steal a student, I can do it." — Delaina

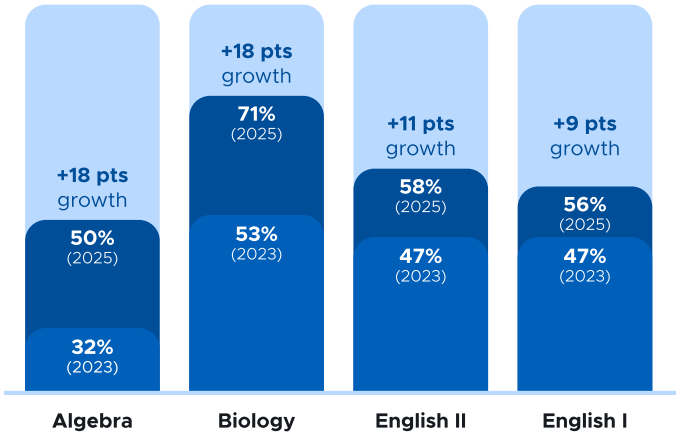
And the students rarely push back.

"They're never upset about it because they have to be somewhere, it's only 25 minutes. A lot of times they see Flex directly improving their grades. That's more so just about being personal with them and trying to show them it's for their success, getting them to buy in, which is honestly the hardest part of being a teacher." — Delaina

Outcomes

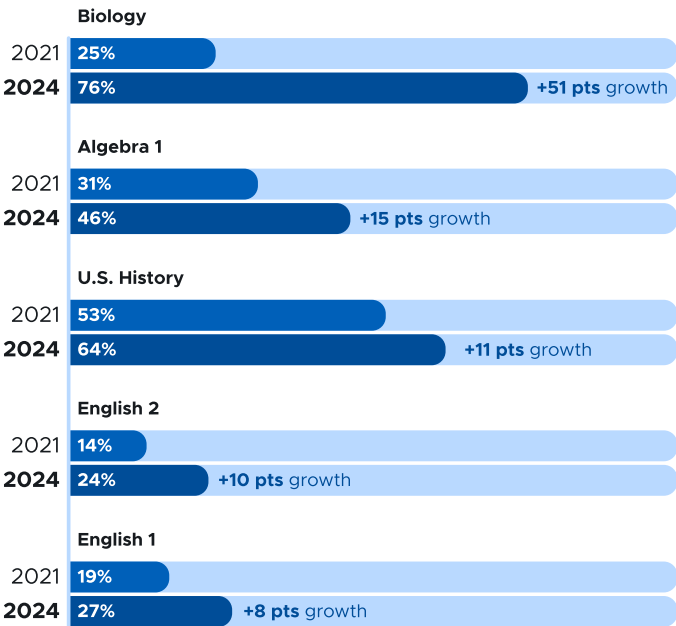
The numbers tell a striking story

EOC “Meets Grade Level” growth, 2023 to 2025



December STAAR retester growth, 2021 to 2024

Passing rates for students retaking the exam, before Gator Time (2021) and with selected Gator Time (2024).



Campus accountability rating



Equity as the foundation

Both Courtney and Delaina point to the same reason it works.

"If we can provide something during the school day that gives them the same opportunities as all the kids that could stay after school other places, then Flex is an equity piece for us." — Courtney

"There's only so much time in class. Flex lets me ID those students and call them into my class to give them that one-on-one or small group opportunity. When you're able to help them one-on-one, you get to know them more personally, you get to cheer them on, and they feel more supported than when you're just talking to the front of the class." — Delaina

Far more than remediation

Gator Time, powered by Securly Flex, now carries almost every function of the school.

- **Academic intervention:** TEKS-based small groups and targeted reteaching.
- **Enrichment and extension:** AP test prep and honors enrichment.
- **Credit recovery:** Counselors pull students for online coursework.
- **College and career:** Scholarship help, college applications, CTE certification prep.
- **Social-emotional support:** Behavior coaches and counselors run small groups on anxiety, decision-making, and social skills. One 9th-grade counselor alone logged 56 sessions and more than 325 unique student interactions.
- **Extracurriculars:** Band sectionals, student council, NHS officer meetings, game film review.
- **Student wellness:** Open gym and a chance to decompress.

"You can't let a kid in the room unless they're signed up for it. If they come in, you've got to put them in the system, because anything can happen. I tell people every day, I run a city. There's 4,000 people in this building. Flex is how we make sure the kids in your room are accounted for." — Courtney

A culture shift, not an add-on

The clearest sign of success is that Gator Time has become untouchable.

"If I take Gator Time away for any reason, people get real upset. Before, it was like an extra thing: 'Uh, we have to do Gator Time.' Now it's, 'We don't have Gator Time? Why? Who decided?' It's basically an act of Congress to cancel it. It became something that teachers and students depended on to be successful." — Courtney

Teachers now plan Gator Time with the same care as their lesson plans. When Courtney cancels a session for a pep rally, she sends calendar invites a month in advance, because teachers have already mapped out their intervention schedule in Flex.

Safety and accountability

For a campus of nearly 4,000 people, knowing where every student is at every moment matters.

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"I've heard horror stories from other teachers of a student not being in their class, and because they didn't have these apps in place to show that, they had to go to court. Having Flex and these monitoring systems to know where everybody is at all times is super helpful." — **Delaina**

Advice for other schools

What Dickinson would tell a campus starting out

"The training piece was a big deal. We had to say why we're going to do it and why it's important. A lot of staff development. I cannot say that enough. Training videos, step-by-step, teachers leading PD on how they made it effective. Patience and positive reinforcement: we highlighted all the teachers doing it really well. I had a first-year teacher that used it so well we had her speak at a faculty meeting about it." — **Courtney**

"Start the year with a general block and let students sign up. As the year goes on and you learn to take data, have more detailed lessons posted and be more specific. 'This is a retesting block,' so kids know they can't come in unless they're retesting. 'This is going to be a lesson. If you're going to be in here, you're going to be engaged.' Draft students based on their specific needs." — **Delaina**

Looking ahead

What comes next

Dickinson continues to refine its approach, with plans for more small group counseling based on student surveys and expanded enrichment.

About Securly Flex

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