

Substitute Teacher Resource Supports Texas Charter's Mission



Challenges

- Teachers needed more planning time
- Staffing shortages limited educators' ability to personalize instruction
- Administrators wanted a reliable, effective way to cover teacher absences

Solution

Swing Education

Results

- Absences covered at a 98% fill rate
- More planning time for full-time teachers
- Better support for students



About Bridgeway Preparatory Academy

- Located near Dallas, Texas
- Founded in 2018
- Tuition-free public charter school

Bridgeway Preparatory Academy is on a mission to enrich its students' lives through a whole-child approach to education. The Dallas-area charter strives to help students reach their full potential in and out of the classroom by focusing on academics, social-emotional learning, and well-being.

"We want to build happy children," says Dr. Brandy Dede, Bridgeway's Assistant Superintendent. "Happy children learn, happy children are engaged, and happy children want to come back."

For Bridgeway Prep, it all starts with smart staffing.

The school's 8:1 student:teacher ratio enables its educators to create individualized learning plans for every student. And strong substitute teacher support through Swing Education, which has covered teacher absences for Bridgeway at a 98% fill rate, ensures learning continues even when full-time teachers are absent.

"Swing helps us deliver the individualized attention and support that our students deserve," Dede says.



Getting Started with Swing Education

Bridgeway Preparatory Academy welcomed its first class of students in August, 2018. As the year progressed, the school observed that its full-time educators and students would benefit from a quality resource for substitute teachers.

Bridgeway wanted to provide full-time teachers with more planning time while ensuring student learning continued even when teachers were absent.

Enter Swing Education, which connects a wide range of Texas schools with qualified substitute teachers.

“Having that additional support from Swing within the classroom allowed us to provide our students the support they needed,” Dede says.

“Swing Education staff really came in handy in particular on Fridays -- when Swing stepped in, our full-time teachers had four full hours every Friday so they could properly plan for each child.”

Dede notes that Bridgeway has also been pleased with the quality of educators it's found via Swing, as well as the company's simple online platform. (Swing school partners can post a request with Swing in 30-60 seconds, and fill a teacher absence in minutes.)

An Exciting Future

Bridgeway Preparatory Academy's campus will look a little bit different in the 2019-2020 school year. The charter expects to triple enrollment and has hired a number of new teachers to support that expansion.

“We're really excited about that growth as we gear up -- there's just so much in store for our families,” Dede says. “The positive feedback that we've received from our current families really makes me excited to jump into this year.”

And just like it was during the 2018-2019 academic year, Swing Education will be there every step of the way to support Bridgeway's staff and students with quality substitute teacher coverage.

“We appreciate Swing being there last school year when we had a critical need, and we're looking forward to continuing the relationship,” Dede says.