

Skiatook Public School District, OK



Skiatook Public Schools uses MAP Growth to drive instructional change

Like any district, Skiatook Public Schools wants their students to succeed. But Skiatook educators didn't have the tools to help drive real instructional change—and ultimately impact growth. “We had a benchmarking tool that didn't address everything we needed it to and was extremely cumbersome to use,” explained Missy Bush, Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs.

School leaders recognized that it was time for a change. “We needed a research-based tool that could help us make a positive impact on student growth—an assessment that delivered data in time to actually influence instruction,” Bush said. After a year of due diligence, Skiatook found an assessment that met all their criteria: MAP® Growth™.

Introducing a research-based, growth-focused tool

“MAP Growth helped us identify what students already knew and what they were ready to learn,” Bush noted. It was also important for Skiatook to have an assessment with national norms that would enable teachers to compare student performance to students across the United States.

Although Bush was sold on MAP Growth, she knew the most effective rollout strategy would take time. The school district was not just changing assessments, but also changing teachers' mindsets around assessments. “We had to shift our focus to growth, and make sure teachers

understood why that was important.” The district devised a three-year plan to allow time for change management and professional learning.

The district collaborated with NWEA® to create an effective implementation strategy. They introduced MAP Growth and its benefits to principals first, and then expanded the professional learning to teachers. “I was very impressed with the quality of the consultants from NWEA. They worked with us upfront to find out our expectations and goals, and then tailored the learning to those goals,” Bush said.

The district's next step was to administer MAP Growth on a small scale with spring testing in 2014. Their reason for this was strategic; it gave some teachers and staff members the opportunity to interact with the data before a district-wide implementation.

Using MAP Growth data

Within the first year of implementing MAP Growth, the district's elementary school connected their MAP Growth data to Compass Learning®—accelerated learning software that helps pinpoint and close skill gaps. After using Compass Learning throughout the fall, a mid-year assessment showed student improvement, providing more evidence to teachers of the usefulness of MAP Growth data.

MAP Growth has also emerged as an integral part of the district's teaching strategy. Skiatook has a data team process in which principals use data to segment students into groups: proficient, close to proficient, and far from proficient. Teachers then create instructional strategies that will support the growth of each group. "We use this segmentation to show teachers where their students are academically, and identify how they can jump in and effect positive change," Bush said.

Skiatook teachers use the goal-setting worksheet to engage students and encourage them to take on a more active role in their learning. "We tell our students where they are right now, with specific skills, and where we think they can get by the end of the year," Bush said. Skiatook teachers also share MAP Growth data, trends, and objectives with parents. "Relaying this information helps parents have a better understanding of how to support their child's learning and growth," Bush added.

"MAP Growth met all of our criteria. It focused on skills, identifying what students already knew, and what they were ready to learn."

Missy Bush, Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs
Skiatook Public School District, OK

Mapping progress and preparing for the future

Skiatook has completed its second full year with MAP Growth, and Bush is pleased with the progress. "Now everybody, across every site, is using the same high-quality data. That's going to make us more effective as educators," Bush said.

This is already proving true. In spring 2015, Skiatook's MAP Growth results showed that students performed better than the national norms in grades 1-5 and 8. In 6th grade, students matched the norms; in 7th grade, they fell slightly below the norms. Having this data enabled the Skiatook district to take a closer look at what was going on in grades 6-7 and create a plan to help these students grow. Skiatook's efforts proved successful. In spring 2016, Skiatook students performed better than the national norms at every grade level.

"We've already seen the benefits of MAP Growth. We've seen how the data we collect can inform instruction, and we're just in year two," Bush said. "I feel confident that we'll see growth and strong results going forward. We now have the data we need to make an impact."



District Snapshot

FIVE SELF-CONTAINED SITES

SKIATOOK, OK



K-12 STUDENTS

2,500

LEARNING NEEDS

<1%

OF STUDENTS
ARE ENGLISH
LEARNERS

34%

OF STUDENTS ARE
NATIVE AMERICAN

ECONOMIC MARKERS

52%

OF STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR
FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH

PRODUCT USE

IMPLEMENTED MAP GROWTH IN

2014



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