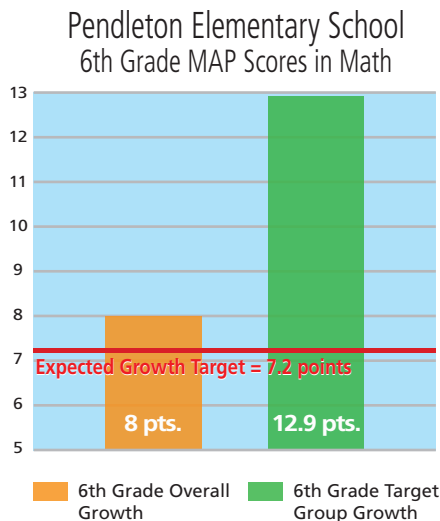


Pendleton Elementary School, Anderson School District 4, SC

PENDLETON ELEMENTARY EXCEEDS GROWTH TARGETS AND SEES HUGE GAINS IN SCORES USING CLASSWORKS



“Kids have a hard time getting their minds into a mode of thinking about a pattern or a process—chunking information to figure out the pattern. I love the way Classworks structures the process so that students have to figure it out for themselves—they have to use higher order thinking skills to solve problems. This mirrors what our teachers are doing with TAP.”

— Gwen Massey, Principal
Pendleton Elementary

Challenge: After three years of not making AYP, Pendleton Elementary was in Continuing School Improvement and about to embark on a school restructuring program, called the Teacher Advancement Program (TAP). It was set in place to focus on improving teacher quality. Embracing this new program and the high expectations placed on teachers, the Pendleton staff wanted to ensure that they met this challenge while keeping improved student achievement as the primary goal.

Goals:

- Integrate new technology, Classworks, with TAP to have maximum impact on both students and teachers
- Focus on math scores, the AYP target area missed in 2008
- Improve performance gains on the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment among all students
- Accelerate performance on MAP assessment among targeted struggling students

Action Plan: Pendleton Elementary wanted to make sure two new programs representing a new school environment in 2008-09 were used to full advantage to improve student achievement and teacher quality. One element of the TAP program is employing a variety of strategies to teach students to become engaged, active participants in their learning. This involves higher order thinking strategies—an area that could be supported by Classworks instruction. In addition to all students using Classworks in the lab weekly, a targeted group of struggling students were given additional academic support through daily before-school lessons and bi-weekly, after school instruction.

Results:

- For 3rd graders overall, the average gain on the MAP in both math and reading was 11 points—outpacing the expected growth targets set by MAP in both subjects
- For the targeted 3rd grade students, average growth was 15 points in math and 14 points in reading, putting them on track to catch up with their peers
- Targeted students in 6th grade surpassed their expected growth target in math—7.2, and the 6th grade class overall—8.0, with an amazing 12.9 point average gain!
- Pendleton Elementary made AYP for the first time in 4 years!