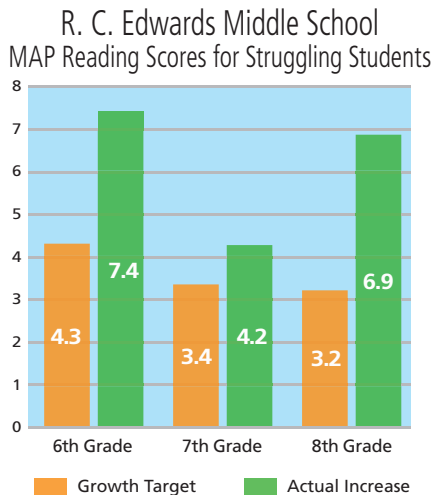


Pickens County Schools, SC



“Our teachers love Classworks. Rather than just being an extra resource, it’s a program that truly helps our students and frees our teachers to support other students.”

— Gary Culler, Principal
R. C. Edwards Middle School

PREVIOUSLY LOW-PERFORMING STUDENTS EXCEED GROWTH TARGETS ACROSS THE BOARD

Challenge: In 2008, R.C. Edwards Middle School had not met AYP for three consecutive years and was a school in need of a turn around. Located in the educated community of Clemson University, there is a general expectation from the community that the local schools should have high achievement levels. For that reason, the staff at R.C. Edwards Middle School was resolved to raise the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores among the low-performing subpopulations of their students.

Goals:

- Improve scores of targeted group and exceed growth targets on the MAP
- Continually identify students on a six week period for targeted Classworks instruction

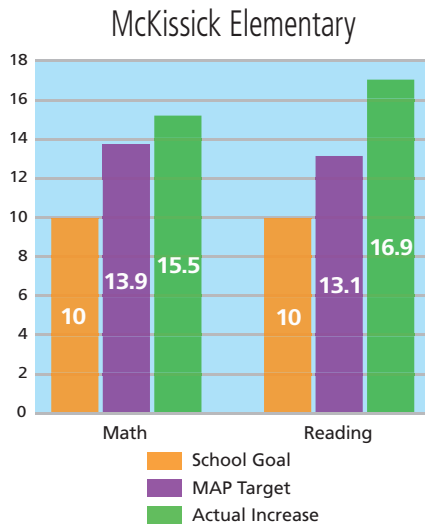
Action Plan: Principal Gary Culler created a structured program that dedicated one Classworks lab and two certified teachers to manage the targeted group of students. The classes were evaluated every six weeks with a few students revolving in and out of the classes based on their needs and understanding of the concepts being taught. The teachers made class instructional decisions based on extensive planning and by closely monitoring each student’s progress. By viewing this added instructional time as critical to the success of the program, the school began to see significant results from the students that paid off at the end of the year.

Results:

- Targeted students exceeded growth targets across the board
- The highlights came in Reading, which is a subject particularly difficult to remediate in middle school:
 - 6th graders almost doubled expected growth targets with a 7.4 point average growth
 - 8th graders more than doubled their expected growth targets with a 6.9 average growth

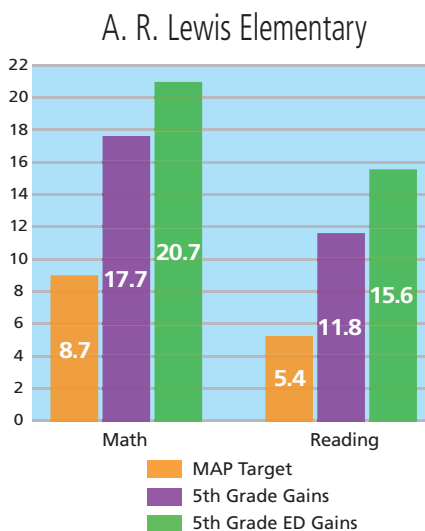
Pickens County Schools, SC

ELSEWHERE IN PICKENS COUNTY...



McKissick Elementary has an extremely challenging student population with the highest population of Economically Disadvantaged students in the district and a large homeless population. Meeting these students' basic needs is difficult, but getting them excited about learning seemed even tougher. After not meeting AYP for three straight years, they decided to focus on one grade for additional Classworks support. The entire second grade received lab time twice a week in addition to using Classworks and interactive whiteboards for whole class instruction.

The goal was to raise Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores for 2nd grade in both subjects by at least 10 points from fall to spring testing. And starting second semester, they had only a few months to make an impact. The results speak for themselves: 2nd Graders overcame the tough learning curve to outpace the school goal and McKissick Elementary made AYP for the first time in four years!



A. R. Lewis is an aspiring "School of Promise" with a solid track record of meeting AYP and multiple awards recognizing their accomplishments. Dedicated to using technology to promote academic achievement, Principal Kathy Brazinski has incorporated Classworks into the school day in various ways. Students use Classworks in the dedicated computer lab twice each week and have access in the laptop lab and mobile classroom labs as well.

Even with a solid academic record, A. R. Lewis continues to set high goals for academic improvement. They focused on 5th grade MAP scores this year, and targeted a subgroup of Economically Disadvantaged students in math to narrow the achievement gap. Their extra efforts paid off with phenomenal gains.