

Pewaukee School District, WI



This Wisconsin District is Using MAP Growth to Improve Students' Futures

After more than a decade of using MAP® Growth™ assessments to improve student growth, Pewaukee School District (PSD) Superintendent JoAnn Sternke has seen her district continue to get better at its mission: opening the door to each student's future. And after years of effort by educators, staff, and students to advance academic achievement, PSD now boasts one of the highest graduation rates in the state. In 2013, they received another tangible marker of success: the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the highest presidential honor given to American organizations for performance excellence.

School leaders credit educators' use of high-quality assessment data from NWEA™ with improvements in classroom learning and programmatic effectiveness. PSD feels strongly that assessing their students at key points throughout the year enables them to better prepare each student for the future. It's a belief supported by outstanding 2014 graduation rates, national recognition for student success, and an impressive 22% increase in the number of students planning to attend a two- or four-year college.

Taking a stand on the value of personalized assessments helped the district stay focused on student growth. "At one point we were at a crossroads with the opt-out movement. We decided to include all students in our locally-driven assessments, including MAP Growth. While the end-of-year state assessments are a static programmatic tool and accountability measure, we use the results from MAP

Growth for learning, grouping students, and determining interventions," says Sternke.

The District Uses MAP Growth to:

- + measure student growth
- + engage students in their own progress and learning
- + establish goals with educators and students
- + evaluate the accuracy of other assessment data
- + predict students' performance on state assessments and the ACT®

Using MAP Growth Data to Take Action

District educators see MAP Growth as a practical use of time due to the actionable information it provides. "MAP Growth isn't just a test we take and then we're done with it. We make sure that everyone is doing something with the resulting data: the superintendent, the principals, the teachers, and the coaches. My team might see information that leads them to say, 'Hey, we think there might be a problem,' or, 'This is going really well. You might not want to spend so much time on this,'" says Candice Bentley, data and assessment specialist.

By using MAP Growth data to inform instruction and involve students in their learning goals, the district empowers students to see MAP Growth performance as

concrete evidence of their hard work. This broadens student-teacher and parent-teacher discussions around learning, says Mike Cady, the district's chief academic officer. "When teachers want to talk about a student's performance, they can reference more than just classroom grades; they can reference growth."

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Mike Cady, Chief Academic Officer
Pewaukee School District, WI

Incorporating MAP Growth Data into Districtwide Initiatives

The district's achievements fuel their desire for continued excellence. To help their students reach new heights, PSD school leaders and teachers have several initiatives underway, including:

- + standards-based grading
- + personalized learning
- + program evaluation
- + disciplinary literacy (teaching literacy across all content areas)
- + full inclusion for students with special needs

Whenever possible, educators use information from MAP Growth to support their initiatives. "MAP Growth gives us such rich data, such evidence of student learning and challenges, that it lets us personalize instruction and analyze program effectiveness in ways we couldn't previously," Cady says. The district's emphasis on continuous improvement has paid off with gains in student performance. PSD's 2014/2015 ACT composite score of 24.5 exceeded averages for both Wisconsin (22.2) and the nation (21.0). Advanced Placement exam participation and scores are moving steadily upward, too; in 2013, students wrote 291 AP exams and 69% passed. Just two years later, 75% of the 433 exams submitted passed.

A World of Possibility with Real-Time MAP Growth Data

In the past, PSD looked at end-of-year assessment data annually. Now it has formalized data teams and content specialists in literacy and math. And when leaders report to the school board every 90 days, they consistently demonstrate how MAP Growth data can be a strategic part of the district's improvement plans.

"When I see the journey that we've had with MAP Growth since 2004, I'm struck by how our district has evolved," Sternke reflects. "Initially, the number of people that looked at the data wasn't more than you could count on two hands. But now thousands of people see it and understand that it's measuring growth. And that to me is the biggest message that we talk about with students—that with persistence and tenacity come growth."



District Snapshot

MILWAUKEE, WI



K-12TH GRADE STUDENTS

2,800

ECONOMIC MARKERS

12%

OF STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

97%

GRADUATION RATE (2014)

90%

OF STUDENTS ARE COLLEGE-BOUND (2014)

PRODUCT USE

IMPLEMENTED MAP GROWTH IN

2004

IMPLEMENTED MAP GROWTH K-2 IN

2013

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SEP20 | KAP947