

Genoa-Hugo School, CO



Genoa-Hugo School credits MAP Growth data for dramatic academic improvement

In this low-income ranching community, kindergarteners start school with a vocabulary base of 300-400 words—compared to a typical 11,000 words in wealthier communities. Such gaps are likely to triple by 4th grade. When Dave Finley, K-12 Principal and Counselor, came to Genoa-Hugo School in 2009, academic achievement was so low that the school was on the brink of being taken over by the state.

Creating a culture of success through an aligned, data-driven curriculum

In the past, Genoa-Hugo educators did not have an aligned, clear curriculum. The district had Title I students, but no RTI plan. And they didn't have a way to measure growth or monitor progress. As a result, staff morale and student performance were low.

Because Finley had a long history of successfully using MAP® Growth™ data in other school districts, he introduced MAP Growth to Genoa-Hugo. Before the 2009 school year began, he spent two hours with each teacher to introduce the concept and application of assessment data, with the goal of getting buy-in and addressing any questions or concerns.

Teachers and board members of Genoa-Hugo were ready for change. They engaged in professional learning, in

which they learned the value of MAP Growth academic data, how to interpret it, and how to apply these insights to inform academic planning—such as levels of instruction and breakdown of students by performance.

Going from assessment to action

The district then expanded their assessment program by introducing MAP Growth K-2. They also incorporated the learning continuum—an NWEA® resource designed to help educators translate assessment data into actionable plans for instruction, grouping, and more.

Teachers were divided into four professional learning communities that used RIT data to align student learning groups and instruction with growth targets.

“Having a common assessment with data we trust and can leverage is key. I wouldn't know what to do without MAP Growth. When teachers can design lessons to match skill sets, that's huge—both in terms of process and results,” said Finley.

Just two months after Genoa-Hugo completed its first MAP Growth assessment and introduced MAP Growth-aligned instruction, students' scores grew 15-30 points. This far surpassed educators' expectations and Growth Projection Calculator predictions.

Finley says these results galvanized teachers to search out academic gaps. “Our teachers used to get excited when the kids ‘got it,’” he explained. “Now they get excited when they don’t get it—because they’ve found the hole, and they are equipped to fix it.”

Most students now test at the high end—with growth above their grade level.

MAP Growth alignment with CSAP helps predict performance and drive success

Finley credits MAP Growth not just for accelerating student performance, but also for dramatic improvement in Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) scores. “Because MAP Growth data and the CSAP align very nicely, we can use it to predict performance,” said Finley.

In the last year alone, the school closed the gap by six points, as reflected in juniors’ ACT scores. And as the district is hitting 100% proficiency on most CSAP growth scores, they are now on par with the best educational systems in the state. Finley has even been sought out by educators in other districts who want to learn how they can use data to create similar results.

Closing academic gaps and accelerating growth

Seeing such dramatic educational success has made everyone in the Genoa-Hugo School District feel more positive about where they are headed. As educators use MAP Growth data to close gaps, academic momentum continues to build and student growth continues to accelerate.

Today, students in Genoa-Hugo no longer worry as much about their grades. Instead, they are invested in their MAP RIT score. They see how it correlates to CSAP, and they see how it is enabling them to have unprecedented success.

“In education, there is a tendency to focus on the lower end, ignore the middle, and maybe give a bit of attention to the high end. In Genoa-Hugo, we’re focusing on growth for every single kid. Students at every level get the attention they deserve, and that’s why our scores are so high,” says Finley. “We could not serve our kids as we have and get the results we’ve accomplished so quickly without MAP Growth’s invaluable data.”



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School Snapshot

HUGO, CO



**K–12TH GRADE
STUDENTS**

170

ECONOMIC MARKERS

49%

OF STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR
FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH

PRODUCT USE

IMPLEMENTED MAP GROWTH IN

2006