

About the school

Charles W Springmyer Elementary is an Ohio school located in Hamilton County, and is a part of the Oak Hills Local School District. It has about 510 students, and a student-teacher ratio of 22.1. It ranks 151st among the 1678 Elementary schools in Ohio.



The Challenge

Springmyer Elementary school was experiencing a fall in Math and ELA scores since the school year 2013-14. Since 2013, its achievement scores were dropping continuously. From a high of 97% in 2013, its 4th Grade ELA scores dropped to 76.3% in 2015. Similarly, 4th Grade Math scores slipped from 92% (2013) to 76.3% in 2015. Its Gap closing grade slid to F in 2015.

The challenge was to ensure that students met the state goals in 2016. The school also wanted to fill in the existing achievement gaps.

PracTutor Solution and Implementation

The Springmyer School required a tool that could help identify the struggling students, establish the strengths of the class, provide everyone in the class with increasingly intensive instruction, and fill in the gaps that kept the struggling students from improving their performance.

It selected PracTutor to use in their 4th Grade classrooms. Students were asked to take pre-tests before starting a new unit. This helped teachers identify their students' potential and helped teachers fine-tune their lesson plans. Based on these pre-test results, teachers could assign Math standards and ELA passages for practice. Regular practice, simulated class tests, and rigorous classroom instruction allowed teachers to fill in the existing achievement gaps.

Continuous monitoring of student progress, and intermediate testing sessions allowed teachers to redefine their goals, and identify the standards that required repetition.

ELA testing allowed teachers to establish the individual reading ability of their students. This helped teachers customize reading assignments and deliver targeted instruction. Moreover, now teachers could challenge their classes with assignments balanced enough to fuel improvement.

Results achieved

Prior to the adoption of PracTutor in 2015; 4th Grade students had registered a Progress score of (-0.81) for Math and ELA, and a Progress score of a mere 0.11 for Math, whereas their Math and ELA achievement scores were at 77.4% and 76.3% respectively.

After the PracTutor adoption in 2016, 4th Grade students at Springmyer Elementary performed better than 91% of all elementary schools in Ohio. Its average standardized test scores improved to 85.33%.The school received Grade A for overall value-added to students.

It's Progress scores improved to 2.35 for Math and ELA, and 4.88 for Math only. Moreover, for the first time, its trend of falling achievement scores was reversed in 2016. 4th Grade improved its Math scores to 87.5%, and ELA scores were maintained at 76.3%. The average state scores for Math and ELA were 69.2% and 57.5% respectively.

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