

About the school

Sultan Middle School is a mid-size Washington State school, in the Sultan school district located in Sultan, WA. It has about 400 students, and a student-teacher ratio of 20.1. It is ranked 278th among 441 Washington middle schools.



The Challenge

Sultan Middle School saw its 8th Grade Math scores slip from 48.6 in 2014 to 32.7 in 2015. Washington State saw its average Math scores slip from 71.5% (2014) to 56.79% (2015). By the beginning of 2015, schools started realizing that SBA (Smarter Balanced Assessments) is an entirely different ballgame compared to the MSP exams (Measurement of Student Progress.)

Sultan Middle School required a program that matched its goal to partner with parents and provide a positive learning experience for its students. It required a learning program that could

- Address the rigor introduced by the new state standards;
- Help tackle the challenges offered by the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA), and
- Allow for personalized learning

PracTutor Solution and Implementation

With these challenging tasks in prospective; Sultan Middle School introduced PracTutor into their learning environment. 7th and 8th Grades were selected for this program. Diagnostic assessments brought forth an astonishing realization that the majority of students weren't ready for adaptive computer-based tests. It prompted teachers to use it for standards based practice and conducting regular intervention sessions. Periodically, PracTutor is being used to benchmark student proficiency and to measure their growth. Regular monitoring allowed teachers to adjust the pace, and personalize students' learning experience.

During the year, the PracTutor program was extended to cover other grades. Best practices from a few classes were now used across the board. The school uses this learning program for both Math and ELA.

Results achieved (Classroom assessments)

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S.No	Teacher Name	Grade	PreTest Score (Average)	Student score throughout the year (Average)	Growth (Average)
1	Lynette Fricke	6	36%	56%	20%
2	Heidi Harder	6	25%	56%	31%
3	Lynette Fricke	7	26%	74%	48%
4	Brooke Lomans	8	41%	75%	34%
5	Brianne Loomis	8	19%	29%	10%

The 8th Grade MSP Math Scores for Sultan Middle School were 48.6%.

PracTutor was implemented by Sultan Middle school during the beginning of School Year 2015.

With the introduction of Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA), their Math scores fell to 32.7%. This year after practicing on PracTutor, the SBA 2016 Math scores have risen to 39.4%. Other grades too have shown promising results.

The 7th Grade SBA ELA scores stand at 59.3, higher than the State average.

Results achieved (Classroom assessments)

Other schools in the district also have started utilizing PracTutor to improve scores. Students in 4th Grade have shown promising improvement in their scores after implementing PracTutor.

SBAs set higher expectations than the previous MSP exams. This calls for a higher level of flexibility on behalf of educators, and requires that teachers and parents increase their collaboration. PracTutor provides all the necessary tools to tackle the challenge.

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