

Fayette County Public Schools—Georgia

Fayette County Doubles Growth on the Renaissance Star Math[®]

By Adding DreamBox to their Small Group Rotation

CHALLENGE

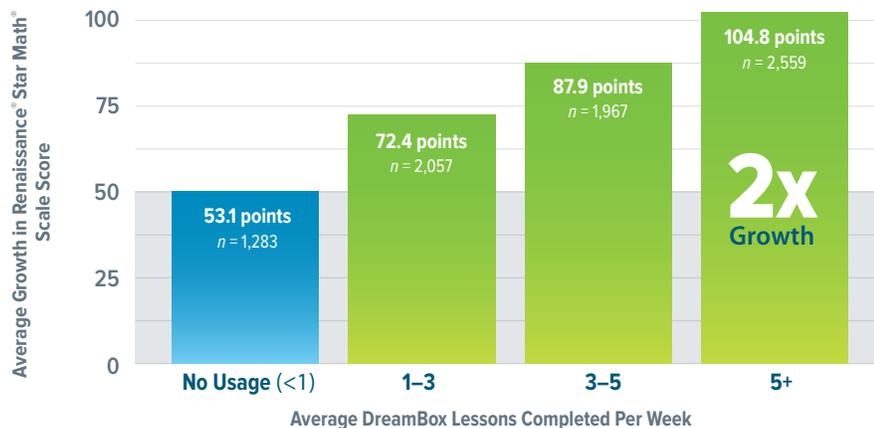
Ensuring all students meet rigorous standards

Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS), located in Fayette County, Georgia, comprises twenty-four schools in five communities, including fourteen elementary and five middle schools. Several years ago, the district began implementing the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE), which include a new statewide math curriculum that places greater emphasis on problem solving, reasoning, representation, connections, and communication.

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*— Josh Noland
Instructional Support Specialist*

DreamBox Learning Helps Renaissance[®] Star Math[®] Growth Double in Grades 1–7



Renaissance Star Math scaled score growth from Fall 2016 to Spring 2017 of Grade 1–7 students in Fayette County Public Schools, GA who completed at least 5 DreamBox lessons per week was 97 percent higher than the Star Math growth of students who didn't use DreamBox.

To effectively meet the rigorous requirements of GSE, the district emphasized a differentiated instructional approach and new tools. FCPS leadership advocated an effort to make small group instruction a key teaching strategy districtwide—and they chose DreamBox to support the approach and round out their tech rotation.

Mark Henderson, instructional coordinator of mathematics, explains the impetus to shift focus from larger classroom instruction to smaller groups is the most practical way to connect with students at all levels. “Standing and delivering a lecture to a room full of second graders is far less impactful than working one-on-one with kids and with small groups,” says Henderson.

He credits elementary instructional support specialist Josh Noland with helping Fayette County K–5 math educators adopt a fresh mindset and successfully implementing a teaching practice centered around small group instruction. Noland was part of the team that initially identified DreamBox as a support tool, piloted the system in three elementary schools, and then subsequently helped implement DreamBox districtwide.

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SOLUTION

Using DreamBox to support students at all levels of academic readiness

Once FCPS staff selected DreamBox, they began rolling it out in three pilot locations. In Fayette County, most of the elementary schools serve affluent communities with high-performing students, yet there is still a very diverse student population. With this in mind, FCPS leadership made a conscious decision to test DreamBox in varied settings to see how the technology might prove most useful.

For the first nine weeks, Noland visited the three pilot schools regularly and walked teachers through the basics of what DreamBox is and how it works. He showed them how to log on, what to expect, and how they could promote effective use of DreamBox within their community. Over the course of the second nine weeks, he dove into the Insight Dashboard, showing teachers how they could monitor data, track student progress, and leverage the AssignFocus™ feature, which enables teachers to easily create focused assignments using real-time proficiency data about each student.

To their delight, teachers with disparate needs found that DreamBox was equally effective at both acceleration and remediation. With DreamBox, high-achieving students gained a different access point for content at and above grade level, something families and schools continually seek. Students with learning challenges—including those served through Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and Response to Intervention (RtI) programs, English Language Learners, and students with disabilities—were able to receive the individualized instruction on the foundational concepts they needed, along with appropriate practice for mastery.

RESULTS

Growth doubles on Star Math® Assessment

After a successful pilot, Noland spearheaded the full-on implementation of DreamBox in all fourteen Fayette County elementary schools. The district currently uses Star Math for screening, progress monitoring, and diagnostic assessment of general math achievement—and Star validates the results they’re seeing from DreamBox. The scaled score growth from Fall 2016 to Spring 2017 of students in Grades 1–7 who completed at least five DreamBox lessons per week was 97 percent higher than the STAR growth of student who didn’t use DreamBox.

Noland says, “DreamBox is having a positive impact in the two areas where we had problems: exposing high-performing students to advanced topics and providing struggling students with the targeted support they need to catch up.”

Furthermore, approximately 80 percent of Fayette County’s K–5 math teachers are now fully and consistently on board with small group instruction and DreamBox. Most educators confidently engage in routine, small group models using DreamBox as a key part of their rotation.

DREAMBOX® LEARNING IMPLEMENTATION

- Small Group Instruction
- District-wide in K–5

FAYETTE COUNTY FAST FACTS

- District serves 24 schools in 5 communities
- Grades: K–12
- Enrollment: 20,050 (Aug 2017)
- Free/Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL): 26%
- Students with Disability (SWD): 9%
- English Language Learners (ELLs): 5%



For more information, contact us at 877.451.7845, or visit [DreamBox.com](https://www.DreamBox.com).