

## Austin Public Schools Drives Instructional Adjustments

Austin Public Schools practices continual adjustment and improvement to ensure students get the remediation and enrichment they need. Using Scantron Assessment Solutions, they get deep breakdowns of their benchmark data, not just of the educational standards, but all the way down to individual skills.

Austin Public Schools, Minnesota, serves more than 4,900 elementary, middle, and high school students:

- 44.7% students of color
- 30.7% of students speak a primary language other than English
- 55.4% of students participate in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program
- 81.4% 4-year graduation rate, 88% 6-year graduation rate
- Practices Baldrige quality management
- 1:1 student device initiative

This diverse district remains tightly focused on empowering and engaging all students for life.

### Yesterday...

Austin Public Schools were looking for an assessment solution that could drive continual improvement. They needed a universal screening test to administer regularly for grades 3–8 and to administer as needed for select populations in high school grades.

The district is a proactive leader in using data, particularly in connecting assessment data to instruction. They wanted an assessment they could use to predict performance on state high-stakes tests.

Because they also wanted to use the results to inform instruction and provide remediation and enrichment, they needed a solution that dug deep into Minnesota’s education standards, going beyond the standard and strand to provide specific, skill-level feedback.

**Enter Scantron Assessment Solutions.**

### Today...

In 2003, Austin Public Schools chose Scantron Assessment solutions and continue to use it today.

“Every three years, we re-evaluate our assessment program,” says Corey Haugen, director of research evaluation and assessment for Austin. “And every three years, like clockwork, we renew Scantron.”

They test three times a year, in Fall, Winter, and Spring, applying their growth model on student scores to determine growth rates between Fall and Winter, then between Fall and Spring.

“One of the top returns on investment for Scantron is how it’s an early indicator,” states Haugen. “We see a prediction accuracy rate of 94% between Scantron results and the state test.”

This predictability helps all stakeholders from students to parents to educators see student progress and standing against crucial state learning

**“Our number one asset with Scantron is how we’re able to break down benchmark data to individual skills and design remediation and enrichment in a targeted way.”**

**Corey Haugen**, Director of Research Evaluation and Assessment





standards. “Parents are continually becoming more invested in the process,” says Haugen. “They’re asking for more score details and benchmark information, so they can understand how to raise their child’s proficiency.”

Predicting performance on state tests, while important, is only as useful as the steps you can take to adjust improvement. Teachers need meaningful and targeted feedback if they are to remediate a predicted poor performance or challenge and enrich students to maintain a predicted strong performance.

“So often in education, we get so concerned about the score,” Haugen notes, “that we forget that what really drives instruction is the benchmark level that Scantron does so well. If I’m a teacher and I discover that ten of my students don’t understand a particular concept or standard, that tells me what to focus on the next day.”

Scantron provides scores, just like any other adaptive growth measure. But the Student Learning Objectives report transforms the scores into a map to inform and adjust instruction, aligned to Minnesota’s standards, and easily integrated with Austin’s scope and sequence guidelines.

“The detail in growth reporting is second to none,” states Haugen. “That’s something a lot of other systems don’t provide. I’ve thoroughly investigated some of Scantron’s competitors—their comparisons and correlations are more abstracted ‘recommendations’ based on the student score. Student results from Scantron’s computer-adaptive test are more clearly and directly connected to standards and skills than others.”

### *Tomorrow...*

Austin Public Schools is eagerly awaiting the inclusion of new scores into Scantron assessment solutions, among other upcoming improvements.

“Scantron is a phenomenal asset, and we’re lucky to have it,” Haugen says. “I truly appreciate how Scantron is continually developing and enhancing their assessment solutions to meet the demands of districts and to help better inform our instruction.”

Scantron is pleased and proud to support the Austin Public Schools and its students.



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TO IMPACT STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT TODAY!**

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### *About Us*

Scantron® provides a comprehensive set of solutions that help improve student outcomes. We offer software and services to meet the needs of assessment programs regardless of where clients are on the technology spectrum—pure paper, pure online, or anywhere in between.

