



Ft. Payne, Alabama, Improves Student Gains Using Scantron Assessments and Edgenuity Instructional Resources

Teachers now receive immediate and meaningful student data from a uniform and consistent benchmark assessment that drives student learning paths they can use to improve instruction in the classroom.

Fort Payne Middle School is set against the backdrop of the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Former sock capital of the world, the working class migrant-population still remains in this picturesque, small Southern town of 14,000. Academic highlights include:

- **Largest school in the district with more than 900 students in grades 5–8.**
- **Recently embarked on a 1:1 iPad® initiative (every student receives an iPad) in the middle school for AY 2013–2014.**
- **Every student is tested in Reading and Mathematics.**
- **59% of its student population qualifies for Title 1.**
- **28% of the student population identifies as Hispanic.**
- **Since the introduction of No Child Left Behind, the school has always made Annual Yearly Progress targets.**

They achieved this kind of quality through dedicated instructors and careful attention to instructional detail.

Yesterday...

The school had no district-provided assessment that delivered the data needed to fulfill state reporting requirements for every student in school.

The school was previously using two different benchmark tests to measure Reading,

English Language Arts, and Mathematics, but incorporating those scores into a complete picture of each student was difficult.

Further, it was a challenge to turn results from those tests into actionable classroom improvements to increase student performance. Teachers in Special Education programs were particularly struggling, as the fixed-form assessments could not adjust to individual student needs.

Fort Payne Middle School needed a solution that enhanced and expanded their use of technology to support education reforms and improve student achievement. It was also critical to implement individualized instruction by collecting, managing, and analyzing data to inform teaching and school improvement efforts.

Enter Scantron's criterion-based computer-adaptive assessments combined with individualized learning paths from Edgenuity® (formerly CompassLearning Odyssey).

Today...

Fort Payne Middle School began using Scantron computer-adaptive assessments to assess all students in Reading, English Language Arts, and Mathematics. They were already using Edgenuity for student learning paths, and Scantron's partnership with Edgenuity enables them to use assessment scores to focus these learning paths on specific skills.

“[This] is an excellent tool for our school! It helps us make data-driven decisions, which benefit all learners, regardless of performance level.”

Amanda Davis, Curriculum Coach, Fort Payne Middle School





The program currently emphasizes the use of this data to drive classroom instruction and create a safe environment where educators can see student achievement patterns and voice their concerns about instructional strategies.

Scantron's assessments were particularly appealing to Fort Payne because they disaggregate data easily by demographics and provide extensive and easy-to-use reporting tools.

Some successes include:

- **Test results educators can use to group classes by performance. Because the data is actionable, students can and do move to a different class depending on their results.**
- **Readily available data improves placement for transfer students.**
- **Specific and relevant learning paths are helping students to achieve their target gains.**
- **Based on a pattern showing a discrepancy between Reading and English Language Arts scores, the school implemented a grammar program that resulted in more than 60% of the students meeting or exceeding the average growth for their performance decile by the end of the school year.**
- **Improved utility of scores provide teachers working in Special Education with information that is specific, measurable, and individual to the student.**

Ultimately, the Scantron growth feedback prompted an epiphany about actual student growth in the classroom. Teachers began questioning their instructional methods and making changes to the way they deliver instruction with the hope of supporting the growth of all students—outside of grade-level curriculum restraints. Now, they have a uniform and consistent benchmark to do so.

Tomorrow...

In the future, Fort Payne Middle School is looking to gain more school leadership feedback and participation from the principal and assistant principals. This will emphasize broader relevance and timeliness of the data as it relates to other initiatives, such as Title 1, Response to Intervention, and class placement.

The school is in a better place to drive instruction and make better decisions for their students. They are looking forward to using the partnership between Edgenuity and Scantron to its fullest extent.

“With Scantron's computer-adaptive growth test, we can help every student make progress by identifying areas of weakness and strength. By building on those areas, we can help students make academic advancements,” says Amanda Davis, Curriculum Coach.



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