Lubbock ISD studentGPS™

CASE STUDY

Early Adopters to implement studentGPS™ Dashboards for 2013-2014 school year

TEA™
TEXAS
EDUCATION
AGENCY

tsds texas student data system

About studentGPS™ Dashboards

The studentGPS™ Dashboards give educators a view into the whole student, providing an easy-to-understand picture of how a student is performing by combining multiple student data, such as grades, attendance, discipline, standardized test scores, program areas and demographics all in one place. Educators can easily see trends and make more timely and informed decisions.

THE studentGPS™ DASHBOARDS:

- Give vital information in one easy-to-use view dashboard, so that educators can save time by not having to search multiple sources for student data.

- Help educators make informed decisions to improve student performance. Educators can use information to see patterns, gaps and opportunities to make adjustments.

- Use colors, symbols and flags to make information easy to see and use.

- Provide tools to monitor, assess and take needed steps to enhance student performance to help educators be more effective in their job.

- House data for educational use only.

studentGPS™ Dashboards Come to the Lubbock Independent School District

LUBBOCK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT DETAILS:

- Over 50 campuses with 3,000 professional staff serving over 30,000 students

- 11 National Merit Finalists in 2013, nearly triple that of the next best district of comparable size in the state

- More than $10 million invested in technology initiative such as electronic classroom performance systems and laptops for use in every middle and high school classroom

- The studentGPS™ rollout started with one Quadrant (Monterey High School and its feeder schools), then was expanded district-wide in 2012-2013.

Lubbock ISD was selected as a limited production release district due to its extensive and effective use of technology in the classroom. Moreover, according to the Executive Director of Leadership and Professional Development for Lubbock ISD, Kathy Rollo, the district wants to be ahead of the curve: "Honestly, we knew that this would eventually be our state's system and we wanted to be a part of the development. We were approached, and jumped on the opportunity." Beginning the implementation process three years ago, the district rolled out the studentGPS™ Dashboards to one of its schools in the first year and this previous year, integrated the dashboards into all of its schools.

TOP USES *for* LUBBOCK ISD

1. Student Profiles
2. Track Attendance
3. Review STAAR Results
4. Create Watch Lists

BENEFITS *for* LUBBOCK ISD:

- Time Savings Access To All
- Information In One Tool
- Correlating Trends Information
- Available In One System

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Executive Director of Leadership and Professional Development for Lubbock ISD
Kathy Rollo

The Implementation Experience at Lubbock Independent School District

Administrators and campus academic leaders at the participating schools attended hands-on instructional sessions, and then returned to their schools to train their staff. This approach gave the administrators and campus academic leaders expert instruction, allowing each to develop training that met the unique needs of their school and staff.

At J.T. Hutchinson Middle School, Principal Heidi Dye trained her teachers in their professional learning committees in the school's computer lab, allowing each teacher to follow along on a computer while watching an onscreen instructor. Unlike other computer programs she had implemented before at her school, Dye found the training process to be particularly smooth and easy:

"We have such a range of teachers, from people that are very technologically inclined and advanced to people who have been teaching a very long time and do not like to be on the computer very much, and this particular program was probably the most user friendly of anything that I've had to teach them."

Shawn Coughlon, a Coronado High School English teacher and campus academic leader was trained using a similar approach. He felt the dashboards were so easy to understand, he called the learning curve a "five minute kind of thing." Coughlon said, "At the training, they showed us where everything was, and then, we all stopped listening and started playing with it because it's very user friendly and very easy to figure out what you want to do."

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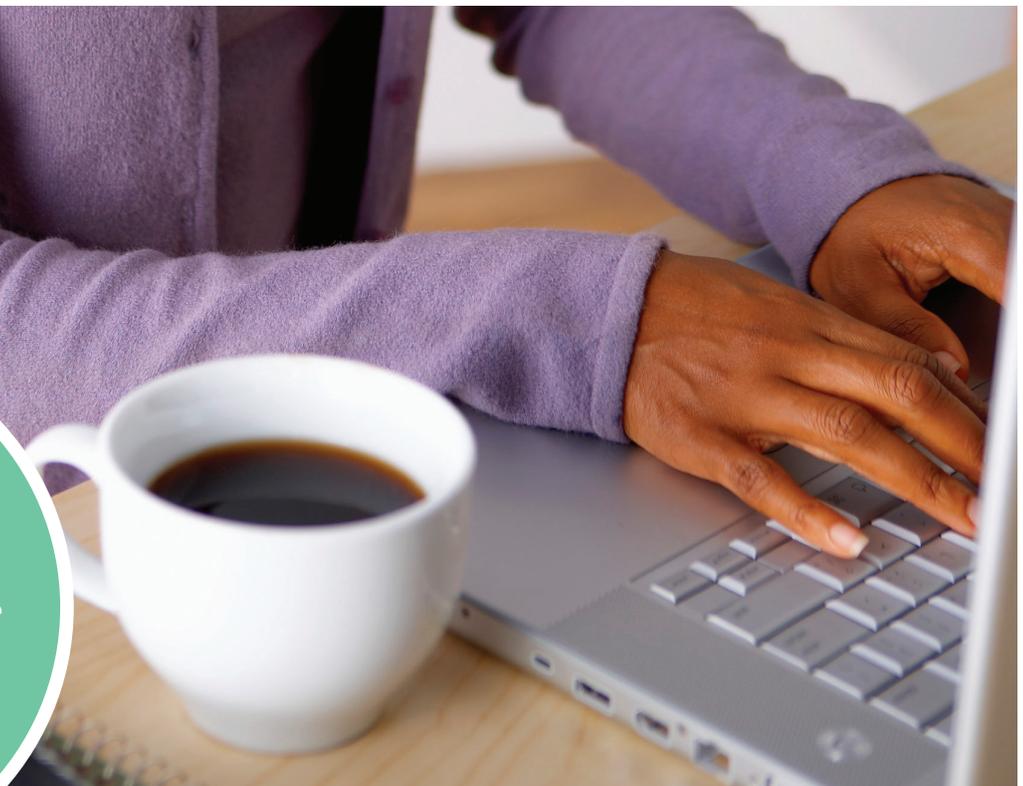
This same approach was also highly effective at Harwell Elementary School where teachers were given the opportunity to work with their STAAR data from the previous year as part of their training.

A campus academic leader and trainer at Harwell Elementary School, fourth-grade teacher Gayle Hopkins found this hands-on approach to be very well received, saying "They liked it a lot … We started our whole group, and it was just like an orientation, and we watched a slideshow, but they even made that interactive because they were asking us questions and we were dialoguing back and forth, then we went to the computers and actually worked with our specific data."

A diagnostician at two campuses, Kathleen Martinez also had positive feedback on her training, saying the training allowed her to maneuver around the studentGPS™. "It was easy to figure out," Martinez said.

However, Martinez suggested that "another training could be helpful once you've already been able to maneuver around on your own. There might be some tricks." She felt it would be helpful to have a follow-up training as well as a quick reference sheet containing short cuts and reminders to keep handy while using the dashboards.

Overall, the studentGPS™ Dashboards were well received by district personnel, with the majority finding the dashboards extremely user friendly and easy to learn. The Lubbock ISD personnel provided invaluable feedback to TEA, and were an integral part of the studentGPS™ Dashboards and overall Texas Student Data System refinement process necessary for the Fall 2013 launch.

BEST PRACTICES & RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Train-the-Trainer Approach – trains administrators and other campus leaders first and then utilizes them to train the rest of their school's staff.**

- **Interactive Instruction – conduct training in computer labs where teachers can follow along on their own computer while watching an instructor's screen.**

- **Follow-up Training – schedule another training session after the initial session to answer questions that arise after practical use and to explore how to use the data to improve classroom instruction and performance.**

- **Use Real Data – if possible, have the teachers work with their own data as opposed to sample data.**

- **Quick Reference Sheet – hand out step-by-step instructions that feature the most popular functions and short cuts.**

- **Timing – If possible, do not host training during the two weeks prior to school starting. Try to find a time when education staff has more time to give attention to this.**

Use Data to Boost Student Performance

Throughout their day, Lubbock ISD teachers are busy doing more than teaching. They're also using data from a variety of sources to analyze and improve their students' performance. With studentGPS™ Dashboards, more data is available faster and in a new easy-to-use format – allowing teachers at Lubbock ISD to better ensure their students' future success.

At Coronado High School, English teacher Shawn Coughlon finds the studentGPS™ Dashboards to be an excellent tool for monitoring his students' performance and pinpointing issues they may be having. In particular, he finds the overall view of the dashboards to be a very useful part of the new program:

"With TSDS we don't have to weed through the details to see how a student is doing. As far as a day-to-day tool, it's a more useful tool for doing diagnostics and trend troubleshooting, with the level of detail available to dig deeper into specific assessments."

Shawn Coughlon

Coughlon praises the studentGPS™ Dashboards for connecting him to the meaningful data he needs in one easy program – especially the attendance, transcript and state testing data. With this valuable insight at his fingertips, he can quickly identify a student's problem areas and put the appropriate intervention measures in motion. In one instance, the school's principal came forward with concerned parents who were perplexed that their child was doing well in school but didn't pass the STAAR. Coughlon was able to "go through the dashboard piece by piece and figure out where the kid was having problems."

As a Campus Academic Leader, Coughlin is also responsible for the entire English Department. Teachers and administrators look to him for insights – regardless of his familiarity with a student. Coughlin uses the studentGPS™ Dashboards to "pull up and put a face to a name if nothing else or get a snapshot and idea of that kid's activities or the kinds of things they're doing."

Calling the dashboards "a very useful tool," Coughlin feels empowered to be more proactive in identifying and addressing student issues before they become problems. Coughlin says they help boost performance and keep students on the path to success.

KEY BENEFITS *for* TEACHERS

- Monitor student performance
- Identify and understand student issues quickly
- Easily access attendance, transcripts and state testing reports in one program
- Get a snapshot of students regardless of familiarity with the student

"
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Shawn Coughlin

Administrators

Improve Communications with Parents

At J.T. Hutchinson Middle School, fifth-year Principal Heidi Dye deals with too many issues to count, not the least of which is addressing parent concerns. A fine arts magnet school with a diverse ethnic base that attracts students throughout the region, J.T. Hutchinson has strict standards for student GPAs and other performance measures. This makes school a challenging place for everyone involved, from students to administrators to parents.

Dye finds the studentGPS™ Dashboards to be a valuable time-saver that is especially useful when working with parents. She can instantly pull up a student's test scores or six-week benchmarks and print easy-to-understand reports that she can immediately share with parents. Dye said, "It's the way that you just put in a few letters and it pulls the student's name up immediately. To me it's probably the efficiency of it… especially when you have an angry parent sitting there waiting for you, arguing with you saying their student is the brightest student in the school, and you know there are some weaknesses that you need to show them." The Dashboards can be a valuable resource for teachers and administrators during parent-teacher conferences to help parents understand their child's performance.

At a school that offers pre-AP classes in addition to regular ones, Dye often finds herself justifying student placement decisions with parents. The studentGPS™ Dashboard's color-coded assessments have made it much easier to communicate to parents the true performance of their child and help them understand what is truly needed in terms of placement.

With the studentGPS™ Dashboards at her fingertips, Dye is better able to communicate the needs of individual students to parents, gaining the kind of buy-in that results in greater support for the student. With these dashboards, Dye says her school is better able to help students and "get them to the point where they can take higher level classes in high school."
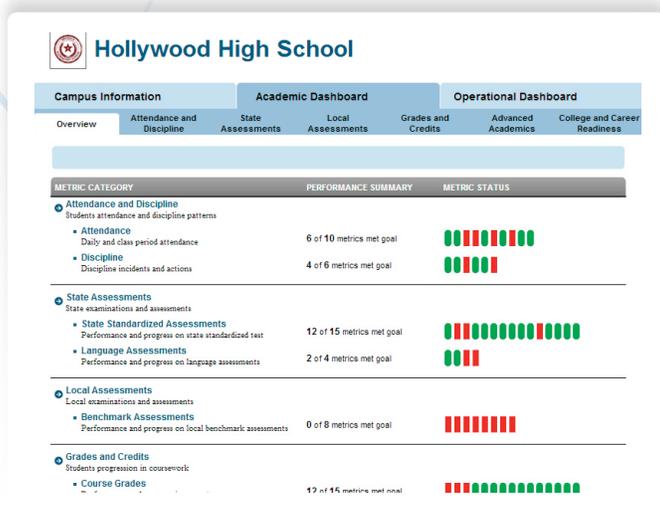
KEY BENEFITS *for* TEACHERS

- Instantly pull and print reports of the test scores and benchmarks of any student in the school

- Swiftly and effectively address parental concerns

- Effectively explain and justify placement decisions to parents to gain their buy-in

Counselors & Support Staff
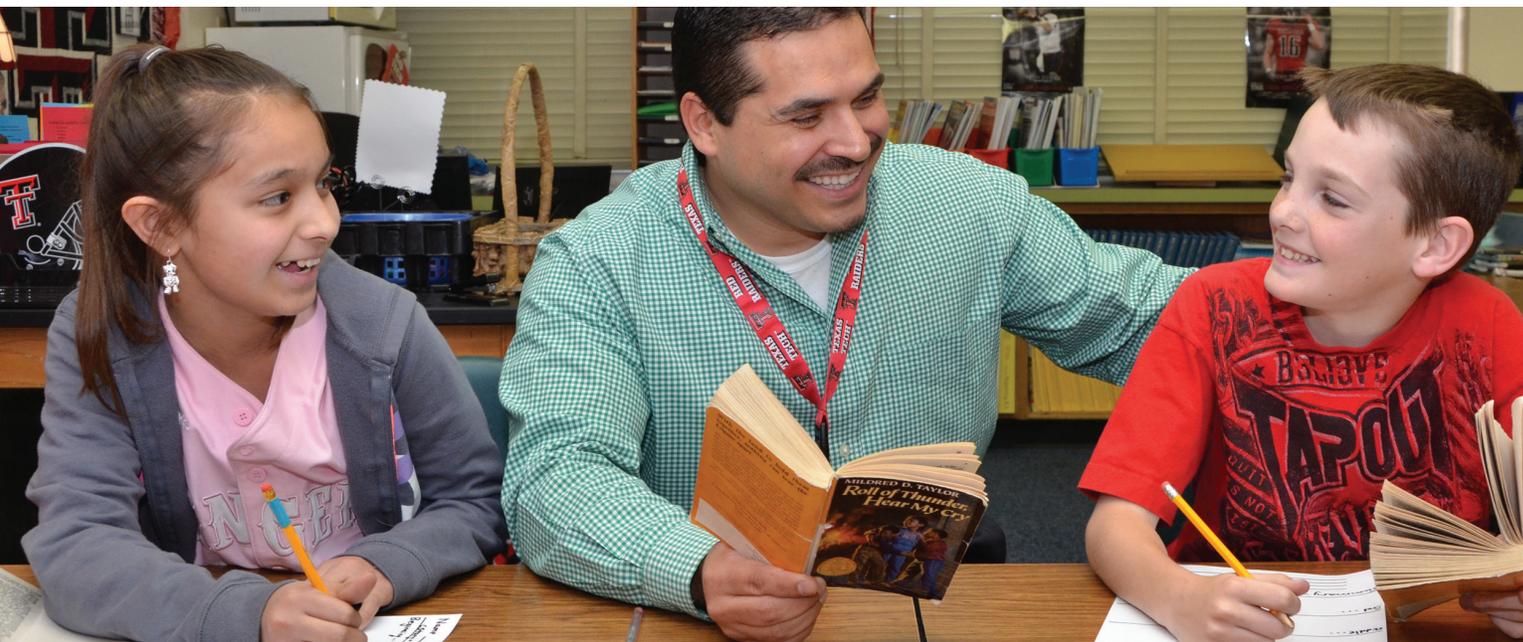
Give Support Staff the Feedback They Need to Help Their Students Succeed

The studentGPS™ Dashboards have also been successful with counselors and other support staff at Lubbock ISD. Kathaleen Martinez, a diagnostician for elementary schools Iles and Wester, gave a glowing review, saying, "I like the dashboard because it saves me from having to go in and try to look everything up manually."

As a diagnostician, Kathaleen Martinez is responsible for evaluating students who have learning disabilities and ensuring they have what they need to succeed in school. Martinez has found that the detailed breakdown of STAAR test results offered by the dashboards allows her to pinpoint a students' strengths and weaknesses like never before. Commenting on her use of STAAR math results, Martinez said:

"(Before) all you would know about measurement is that they got six out of 10 questions correct. That's it. This breaks down measurement into all the little individual stats and would say, they can do this and they got two out of two questions right, but when it came to area or perimeter, they got zero out of two questions correct – so it pinpoints exactly where in measurement you would need to focus."

KEY BENEFITS *for* COUNSELORS & SUPPORT STAFF

- Pinpoint students' strengths and weaknesses more precisely

- Additional feedback for better-informed decision making

- Improved support staff to teacher collaboration

"I think I would have had a breakdown if I had to go in and try to look everything up manually. I like the dashboard."

Diagnostician
Kathaleen Martinez

Martinez also finds the dashboards extremely useful in teacher collaboration efforts needed in order to fully meet the specific needs of her students. The dashboards give her factual information to compare against the feedback she receives from teachers. Talking about how this better informs her decision making, Martinez said, "As a diagnostician, I really can help figure things out if teachers are coming to me saying that a student is really struggling in a certain area. With the dashboard, I can pull up that information and assess what might need to be worked on in a certain area or how we are working with things."

Overall, Martinez was impressed by the detailed information provided by the dashboards, saying, "That's the big benefit I would think for educators... seeing how well you taught and how well they took in the information and where you might need to re-teach or where your focus lies for each individual student and not just the group as a whole."

A major initiative by the Texas Education Agency, Texas Student Data System is a *new statewide system* that modernizes and improves the quality of data collection, management and reporting in Texas education.

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