

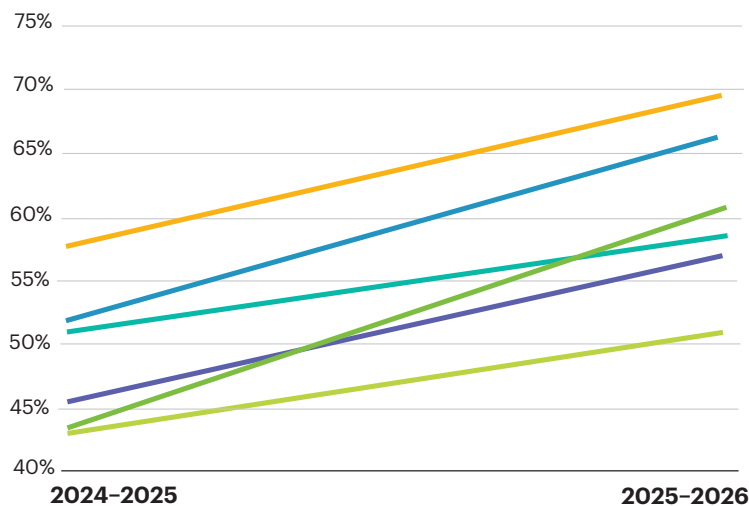


From a Homegrown Science Resource Hub to a Shared Science Approach



Brunswick County Schools has been transforming science instruction since implementing Stile Education®, including a 17.7-percentage-point increase in Physical Science scores at one middle school.

Mean Percentage Correct on the NC Check-In across Middle Schools: Physical Science, Grade 8



In 2025–2026, Brunswick County Schools launched Stile for Grade 8 following a spring 2025 districtwide pilot. NC Check-In 2.0¹ data shows encouraging growth trends across BCS middle schools (each shown in a different color)—an early signal of what’s possible with high-quality instructional materials and intensive professional learning.

Building a Middle School Science Curriculum That Works

BCS had strong science teachers but lacked a shared curriculum to align instruction across schools.

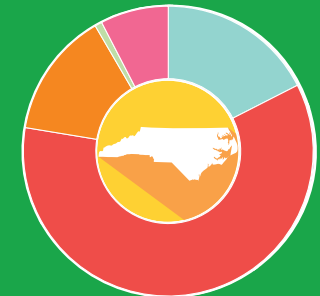
That changed when the district adopted Stile’s customizable middle school science curriculum in 2025. With a shared foundation in place, teachers moved from isolated planning to collaborative, standards-aligned instruction, helping students grow into stronger critical thinkers.

¹NC Check-Ins 2.0 are North Carolina’s interim science assessments for Grades 5 and 8, designed to provide immediate feedback on student understanding of Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth & Space Science standards throughout the school year.

[Source](#)

Brunswick County Schools (BCS) Bolivia, North Carolina

13,262 Grades Pre-K–12
Students*



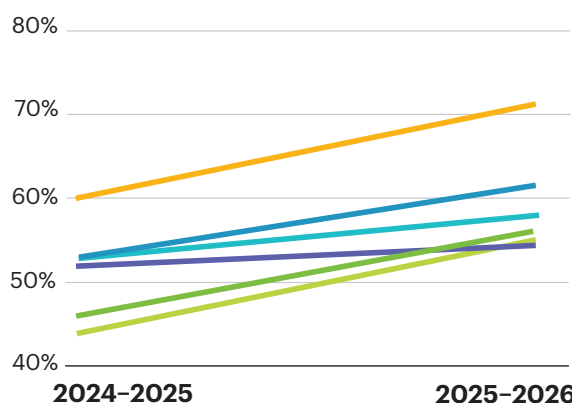
Asian Black Hispanic
Other White

64.8%

Students with Socioeconomic
Disadvantages

“I see Stile as more than preparing students for high school. I see it as preparing students to be critical thinkers, to partner with each other and with the teacher.”

—Kat Harris, Middle School
Science Curriculum Specialist
and Instructional Coach

**Mean Percentage Correct on the NC Check-In
across Middle Schools: Earth Science, Grade 8**

Earth Science scores increased an average of 8 percentage points across all BCS middle schools from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026.

A Pilot Built on Teacher Trust and Leadership

BCS didn't jump in all at once, running a structured pilot during the 2024-2025 school year.

To prep, Stile's professional learning team worked intensively with a core group of teacher leaders, helping them learn the platform and adapt the pacing to fit BCS's specific needs. The goal was clear: equip teachers to lead the work themselves.

"As a teacher leader in the Stile adoption pilot, I appreciated having the opportunity to help evaluate a resource that would directly impact our classrooms," said Meg Zeng, teacher at Waccamaw School. "I think it positively impacted other teachers by encouraging collaboration and open conversations about what works best for students."

That peer-led approach built confidence quickly, since teachers had someone like them to listen to. And because the professional learning team remained alongside them throughout the rollout, teachers knew they still had support when they needed it.

Making Science Cohesive and Memorable

One of the most powerful shifts teachers noticed in year one was how Stile changed the structure of science learning itself. Before, teachers would look at a standard, build a lesson around it, and move on unit by unit with little connecting thread.

But now, students build on their understanding of complex concepts throughout the year.

Harris shared:

"Stile makes it cohesive. You're hitting maybe all the standards in one lesson or unit versus teaching it standard by standard. Now there's a real connection. I could be in the chemistry unit, and then a month later, I'm in hydrology, and it's bringing up what they did in chemistry. It's holistic rather than piecemeal."

Students are noticing too. Because concepts are repeated across units, the connections are visible throughout lessons—and they stick.

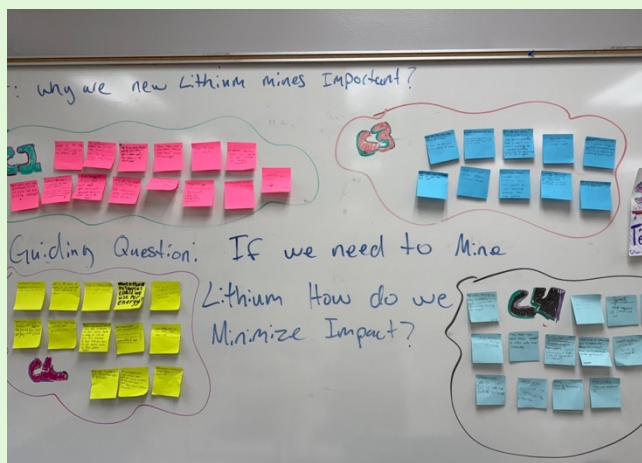
Real-Time Data, Real-Time Adjustments

Stile's Teach Mode gives teachers something they didn't have before: a live window into student thinking. In this mode, teachers present to students and show model answers or real-time anonymous answers.

Rather than waiting until after class to grade assignments, teachers can see responses as they happen and teach around them.

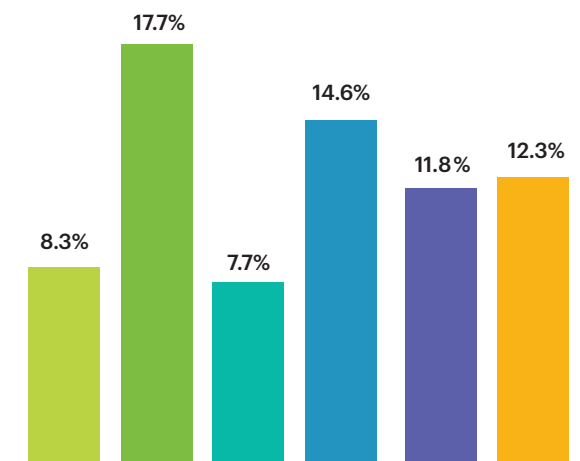
"I love the real-time data from lessons. It provided discussion points and opportunities to reinforce topics, as answers are in real time," said Kim Lawson, teacher at Leland Middle School. "It gave me teachable moments to take a pause and extend on higher-order student responses or to clarify misconceptions."

That visibility extends beyond the live lesson. “I used the data to group students for an intervention or extension lesson,” said Muriel Watson, teacher at South Brunswick Middle School.



A Driving Questions Board at Cedar Grove Middle School gives students ownership over their learning, increasing their engagement and motivation.

Growth in Mean Percentage Correct on the NC Check-In across Middle Schools: Physical Science, Grade 8



One middle school achieved a 17.7-percentage-point increase in Physical Science performance from 2024–2025 to 2025–2026, with all Brunswick County middle schools demonstrating strong year-over-year growth.

Questions That Drive Learning

Every Stile lesson includes a Key Question that guides students’ learning around core goals.

Some units also incorporate a Driving Questions Board, an engagement strategy built into Stile that gets students thinking and discussing together.

In Chad Saunders’ classroom at Cedar Grove Middle School, the board has become a living document. Driving questions start at the center and move to the perimeter of the board as students answer them, a constant visual reminder of where the class has been and where it’s going.

“Seeing how almost all questions the students had at the beginning of the unit were answered by the end through learning in Stile was a true eye-opener for me,” said Saunders.

Building Critical Thinkers

Stile creates natural space for students to work together, and teachers have especially appreciated how the platform supports independent and critical thinking.

Much of that comes from how Stile grounds units in relevant scenarios, making it easier for students to engage and connect. This includes local phenomena, which are customized based on region and featured in select units, letting students investigate the science right in their own backyards.

“Real-world applications, like ‘Are we creating the next superbug?,’ really gave students something they could relate to in the world around them,” said Saunders.

Students have also responded strongly to the broad range of scientists featured throughout the Stile units. For Harris, it's one of the most meaningful elements of the platform.

"The representation in the scientists that they feature in each unit, that's been a huge hit," she said. "Students can see themselves in the materials, in those positions."

Consistency across the District

One of the strongest outcomes from the first year of Stile has been the consistency created across the district. Not every school has the same mix of experience among its teaching staff. Some have veteran teachers, while others have educators new to North Carolina's curriculum.

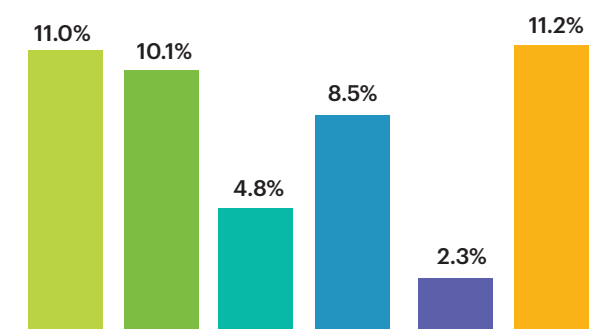
Before Stile, the quality and coherence of science instruction could vary widely depending on what each teacher had on hand. With Stile, every classroom has access to the same high-quality, standards-aligned materials.

"Since I'm new to the county, Stile really helped me navigate the curriculum," said Lawson. "It ensured that I met standards and it was so helpful for engaging all levels of learners. I credit Stile as a large part of my students' end-of-grade growth."

This shift has transformed how teachers collaborate too. Teachers across the county now share lesson modifications, strategies, and resources in shared chats. What works in one classroom gets pushed out to everyone.

"The collaboration across the county is greater than it has ever been," Harris said. "Now everybody has the same resources."

**Growth in Mean Percentage Correct
on the NC Check-In across Middle Schools:
Earth Science, Grade 8**



All Brunswick County middle schools demonstrated growth in Earth Science performance from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026, with three schools showing gains of more than 10 percentage points.

What's Next for Brunswick

BCS isn't stopping anytime soon. The district is now looking ahead to expanding Stile to Grades 6 and 7 (which are currently in a pilot) with full licenses, bringing that cohesive, rigorous science experience to every middle school student.

"I'm looking forward to when we can jump into the deep end, full force, and really make a difference at every grade level," Harris said. "It'll change everything."



**Discover Stile—the science
curriculum that teachers love.**