

SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT

In California's Twin Rivers Unified School District, Data Tells Students' Unique Stories

Located 10 miles outside of Sacramento, CA, Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD) serves an ever-changing group of students and families from different countries, socioeconomic backgrounds, and cultures.

Many of the district's students are transient and/or from low socioeconomic backgrounds. The district also has a large English Learner (EL) population. Out of its 32,284 K–12 students, 7,147 are ELs.

Meeting the learning and social-emotional needs of such a diverse population presents many challenges, but TRUSD leaders have developed systems and practices that facilitate student learning growth while celebrating the unique assets students and their families bring to the district.

Twin Rivers
Unified School
District



STUDENTS
32,284

GRADES
K–12

TITLE I
88%

ENGLISH
LEARNERS
22%

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During a period of upheaval, TRUSD's dedicated educators achieved feats that were once unfathomable. *"We're not just looking at students by number. We're looking at them by their stories."*

—Christine Flok, MTSS Coordinator

What They Did

By collecting data and housing it in a single comprehensive dashboard, TRUSD educators are able to create rich profiles for every student and their learning and social-emotional needs. TRUSD's data aggregation is so robust that educators—Christine Flok, TRUSD MTSS coordinator, explained—can see students' "stories" at a glance. The student dashboard, which integrates information from Ellevation®, a comprehensive EL program management platform that TRUSD implemented in 2021, enables education leaders to not only track the progress of the district's ELs but also answer questions quickly (e.g., What's the student's home language? Is the student a refugee? Has the student's family participated in an information session recently?).

TRUSD Uses Data to Fuel:



Insight into Students' Learning Needs

Data from *i-Ready Assessment*, a comprehensive, standards-aligned, formative assessment program, is a key component of every TRUSD student's data story. Though the district did not start having regular data chats with students until 2020, these conversations have swiftly translated to student ownership of their learning.



Districtwide Goals

By sharing goals based on *i-Ready* data, SBAC assessment data, and more with the public, TRUSD leaders hold themselves accountable to meet ambitious and important deadlines.



Professional Development for Educators

Part of the district's professional development mission is to "increase human capital through research-based professional development." Educators can enhance their instructional practices for their ELs with courses that focus on EL instruction and social-emotional learning, collaborative dialogue, and/or language supports.



Family Engagement

TRUSD educators stay connected to families through regular surveys and communications in multiple languages. The district also offers families opportunities to connect with educators through the Family and Community Engagement team, District English Learner Advisory Committee, School Site Council, and volunteering.

"A student emailed one of the [instructional] coaches and said, 'One of my assessments is coming up . . . and I'll let you know how I do.' And they followed up and said, 'I tried to write my best. I'm hoping for a great outcome.' It's those little anecdotes that are touching and that make it all worthwhile to do the work that we do."

—Jisel Villegas,
EL Director



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What They Accomplished

TRUSD's community-building efforts and fidelity to data best practices were instrumental to continued learning when COVID-19 caused school buildings across the country to close.

When, for example, the data dashboard showed that 1,000 ELs were not attending remote classes, eight TRUSD educators called all the students' families within a week. And when Jisel Villegas, EL director, recently got word that the district would be enrolling a new wave of refugees from Afghanistan, she was able to approach planning for the influx with confidence and compassion. "Each data point is another opportunity for our teachers, administrators, and really anyone to take a look at a student a little more in depth," Villegas said.