SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT

How Two Small Indiana Schools Made Big Strides in Proficiency

In spring 2019, students from two small, rural schools in Cloverdale, Indiana earned math proficiency scores higher than the state average on the Indiana Learning Evaluation and Readiness Network (ILEARN), Indiana's summative accountability assessment.

Under normal circumstances, this might not seem like a big deal, but spring 2019 was the first year ILEARN had been given, and more than half of the state's Grades 3–8 students did not meet proficiency standards for Mathematics nor English Language Arts.

How did Cloverdale Community Schools, a pre-K–12 district located 45 miles southwest of Indianapolis, prepare its students for the challenging math they encountered on ILEARN?

Cloverdale Community Schools

STUDENTS
723

GRADES
K–8

TITLE 1
67%

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With hard work, tenacity, and the adoption of a computer-adaptive interim assessment program and a standards-aligned blended math curriculum.

The Challenge

Before the 2016–2017 school year, Cloverdale Elementary and Middle Schools relied on several different assessment programs to produce student data. However, educators found that these assessment tools didn't give definitive information about students' learning needs. The tools delivered student data, but it wasn't actionable because it didn't connect to individualized instructional resources.
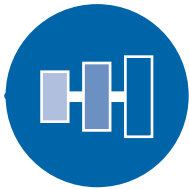
In fall 2016, Cloverdale switched to *i-Ready Assessment*. At the same time, the district also adopted *i-Ready Personalized Instruction* for Mathematics and *Ready® Indiana Mathematics* as its blended core math program. These new programs enabled Cloverdale educators to:

"Our teachers knew that this was going to glean the type of results we wanted."

—**Cathy Ames**, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Consolidate student data and differentiate instruction

Modernize and align their math curriculum across Grades K–8

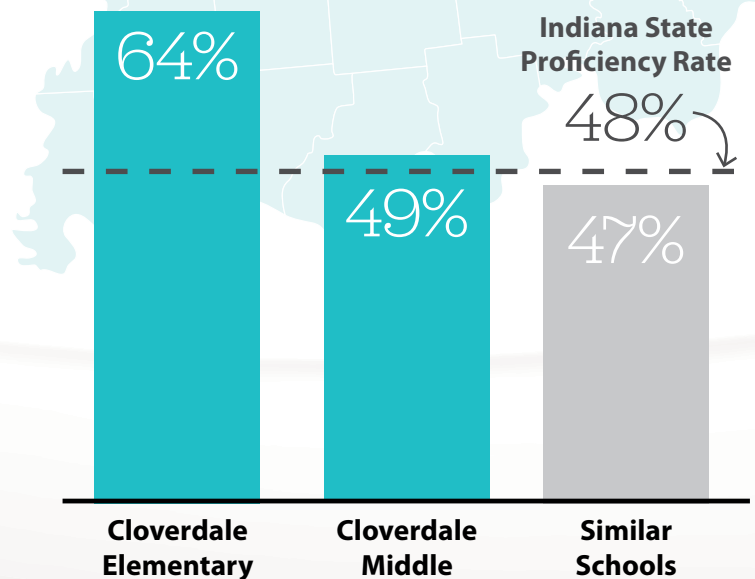**Create clearly defined learning pathways** by connecting student data to instructional resources

Take on a discourse-driven, student-centered, rigorous approach to math education

The Results

Even before ILEARN results were in, Cloverdale's 2018–2019 *i-Ready* data reflected all the hard work educators and students put into preparation for the first assessment. Over the course of the school year, 58 percent of Grades K–8 met their annual goals for Typical Growth and 30 percent of students met their *i-Ready* Stretch Growth® benchmarks.

As for ILEARN results, nearly 64 percent of Cloverdale Elementary students and just more than 49 percent of Cloverdale Middle students achieved proficiency in mathematics. Both Cloverdale scores were higher than the state's Grades 3–8 proficiency rate of 48.7 percent.

Indiana State Proficiency Rate
48%

Cloverdale Elementary	Cloverdale Middle	Similar Schools
64%	49%	47%

"When kids know the level where they're performing, and they know where they want to be performing—that's a huge motivator for them to work harder day in and day out."

—**Angie Renard**, Grade 2 Teacher

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