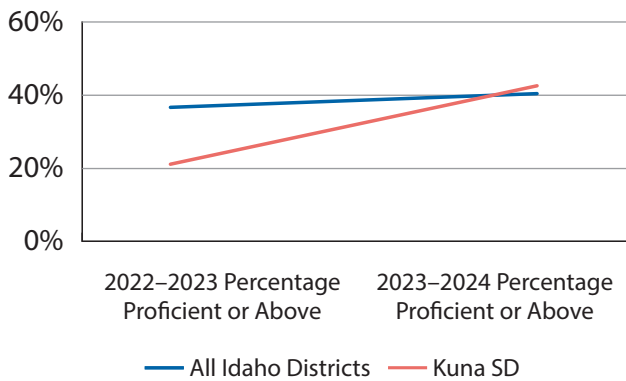


# Idaho District Doubles Grade 8 Mathematics Proficiency in One Year



Kuna School District Achieves Incredible Growth through Focused Implementation of *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics*

**ISAT Mathematics Improvements: Kuna SD Grade 8 Students Meeting (Level 3) or Exceeding (Level 4) Proficiency**



Since implementing *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics* in Grades 6–8 for the 2023–2024 school year, Kuna SD has seen dramatic gains in the percentage of Grade 8 students meeting or exceeding proficiency on the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) for Mathematics. The district’s growth trajectory is double the state average.<sup>1</sup>

## Building Math Momentum across Grades K–8 and Algebra 1

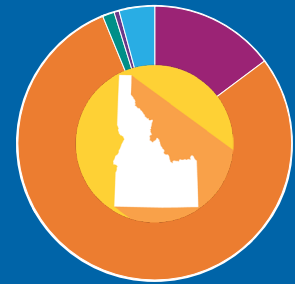
Nestled in rural Idaho, Kuna SD is making significant strides in accelerating student growth. Already using *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics* for Grades K–5, in 2023 the district extended the program through Grade 8 and Algebra 1 to better prepare students for high school and beyond. Kevin Gifford, director of curriculum, says the district “loves *i-Ready’s* thoroughness. The Tier 1 instruction is sound and goes deep, and the assessment tool is tied to intervention. *i-Ready* provides us with a complete system.”

Michelle Manuel, Kuna Middle School principal, appreciates that the curriculum “gets students engaged with math. Teachers are walking around the room, the class is talking about the concept at hand, and the content is geared to middle schoolers. It’s really increased student engagement.”

To support fidelity of implementation, the district provides robust professional learning and support. As a result, the Kuna Kavemen achieved a nine-percent increase in mathematics proficiency across Grades K–8 from fall 2024 to winter 2024–2025.<sup>2</sup>

Kuna School District  
(SD)  
Kuna, Idaho

**Grades Pre-K–12 Breakdown<sup>3</sup>**  
5,780 Students



White Black Hispanic  
Asian Other

**7.4%**  
Multilingual Learners

**16%**  
Students with Disabilities

**19.6%** Students with Socioeconomic Disadvantages

*“i-Ready Classroom Mathematics can be life-changing for kids. It opens up opportunities that weren’t there before. Helping students access grade-level learning now helps prepare them for more in life than they could have had otherwise.”*

—Kevin Gifford,  
Director of Curriculum, Kuna SD

## All Means All: A Unified Approach to Implementation

Kuna Middle School is a prime example of the success the district is experiencing through a data-driven, collaborative approach to mathematics instruction.

After three years in an improvement plan, the school is set to successfully exit it this year—a major milestone in their journey. In Grade 8, the district achieved a 26-percent proficiency increase in the ISATs from 2022–2023 to 2023–2024, far surpassing the state average of four percent.

Kuna partners closely with Curriculum Associates to deliver ongoing professional learning, including onsite support, regular check-ins, and three data review touchpoints throughout the year.

“From day one, *i-Ready’s* professional learning has been some of the best I’ve seen—not only the initial training but also the ongoing sessions districtwide and with each school team. Curriculum Associates’ attention to each building’s needs has been fantastic,” Gifford shared. “We feel like part of their family, and they’re part of ours.”

During these sessions, Curriculum Associates’ team reviews data findings and actively guides educators in analyzing trends, offering actionable insights on how to adjust instruction to meet students’ needs.

There is a particular focus on students who are performing below grade level, ensuring they receive timely, effective intervention. By addressing gaps early, Kuna teachers are empowered to provide personalized support that yields improved student outcomes

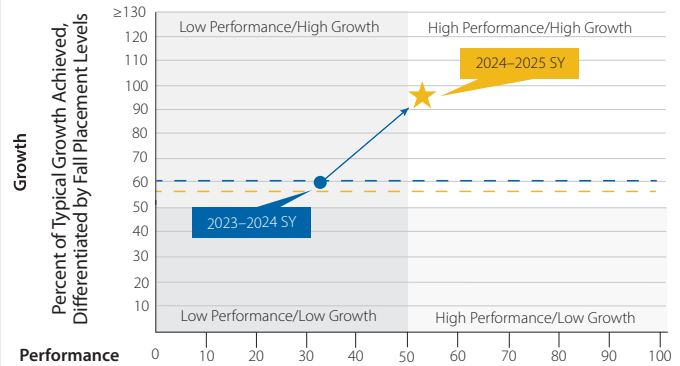
“All means all,” Gifford continues. “All kids. Every day, every classroom. *i-Ready* helps us identify students who are below grade level and provides specific next steps to get them to proficiency. The program’s high-quality instruction and focus on growth helps us live our mission and values.”

“My advice to other schools thinking about choosing *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics*? Trust the system and go all in. Lean on your Curriculum Associates partners. Implement with fidelity. And forget about the old way of teaching, because *i-Ready* is so much better than that.”

—Michelle Manuel, Principal, Kuna Middle School

## Commitment to Best Practices Yields Powerful Results

Comparison of Median Student Performance and Median Percent of Typical Growth Fall to Winter: Kuna Middle School



Median student performance relative to historical 2018–2019 national norms (in BLUE) and 2022–2023 national norms (in GOLD) (50th percentile is the national median)

Kuna Middle School has seen dramatic gains in Grades 6–8 performance and growth on the Diagnostic. From 2023–2024 to 2024–2025, the school moved from just below the national median to well above, placing in the High Performance/High Growth quadrant. This is a remarkable achievement at any grade band, especially for middle school.

It can take three years or more to start seeing the impact of a new curriculum. The fact that Kuna Middle School achieved such exceptional results in their first year of implementing *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics*—on the state test as well as the Diagnostic—demonstrates the district’s commitment to implementing the program as recommended and providing robust professional support for their teachers.

This remarkable progress highlights the power of Kuna SD’s intentional and focused efforts, laying a promising foundation for sustained growth in the years to come.



## Perfect Scores for Grades K–8

Learn More about Our EdReports Reviews

<sup>1</sup>[SDE.Idaho.gov/Assessment/Accountability/Index.html](https://sde.idaho.gov/Assessment/Accountability/Index.html)

<sup>2</sup>[YouTube.com/Live/KS6JET8PQLO](https://www.youtube.com/live/KS6JET8PQLO)

<sup>3</sup>[USNews.com/Education/K12/Idaho/Districts/Kuna-Joint-District](https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/idaho/districts/kuna-joint-district)