35 Schools. 18,000 Students.
One tool to screen them all.

aimsweb
PLUS

aimswebPlus™ helps this school district identify at-risk students BEFORE they fall through the cracks.

Delivered online, aimswebPlus simplifies the complexity of targeting instruction and interventions during the entire assessment cycle with a single, easy-to-use, secure reporting system that delivers immediate results and compares performance by classroom, grade, and district.

New Hanover County Schools (NHCS) in North Carolina has been using aimswebPlus since 2016 to screen and monitor reading and math skills, and more precisely diagnose the learning challenges for all their students.

The Facts:

- More than 18,000 K-8 students in 35 schools are assessed each year.
- According to education professionals at NHCS, aimswebPlus has been instrumental in identifying "at-risk" students earlier.
- Progress monitoring has been a game-changer for NHCS, providing concrete guidance for improving foundational math and reading instruction and interventions.

"We are doing a better job now at catching at-risk learners, and in particular those hard-to-identify students who might have otherwise fallen through the cracks. Because of aimswebPlus, we are having more problem-solving conversations than ever before and are more successful in preparing all of our students for success in upcoming grades."

—Courtney Moates, MTSS Instruction Specialist for the New Hanover County Schools

" Our teachers really like aimswebPlus because it gave them comprehensive data in a short amount of time. And it was so easy to use that they were keen to do monthly progress monitoring and adjust interventions as needed. "

—Jaime Conti, Instructional Coach and Intervention Coordinator, Lake Forest Academy

Diverse School District Required One Comprehensive Solution

New Hanover County Schools is a year-round school district with 26 elementary schools and 9 middle schools in a densely populated area of coastal North Carolina that includes Wilmington and surrounding communities. Identifying the individual educational needs for such a large and diverse student population was extremely challenging.

The New Hanover school district was using several different tools for assessment, and teachers and educational specialists were struggling to generate accurate and reliable results. They needed a change. After several years of thoroughly evaluating myriad assessment products, the New Hanover County Schools chose aimswebPlus.

The evaluation team, which consisted of teachers, administrators, special educational specialists, and school psychologists, found that most products were too limited. "A lot of products just served as a screener and didn't have progress monitoring tools," said Courtney Moates, MTSS Instruction Specialist for the New Hanover County Schools. "Others had diagnostic measures and some instructional elements, but they fell short in other areas."

aimswebPlus was the only all-in-one solution with a single reporting system to provide a comprehensive view of individual skill levels and performance comparisons against the classroom, grade, and district.

Precise Diagnoses Are Crucial for Success

No two kids are alike and even if their behavioral and learning challenges appear similar, the underlying cause of their difficulty is not necessarily the same. NHCS chose aimswebPlus in part because of the precision with which it could identify specific learning challenges.

"Catching kids that require intensive interventions is not as difficult as catching those that are just slightly below expectations," said Moates. "Using aimswebPlus, we are now doing better with kids that, for example, just need a little bit more help with mental computation or practice with fluency. Without it we might miss that deficiency because the student is really great at comprehension. That problem with fluency however, would impair their learning down the road. Now we have a solution that provides a clear and prescriptive diagnosis for every type of learner."

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aimswebPlus Won Over Even Skeptical Teachers

Every year teachers are hit with new demands on their time. Understandably, they can be skeptical when the district introduces a new assessment tool. During the first year, educational specialists had to maintain a steady drumbeat of support for aimswebPlus, including conducting assessments three times each year and monthly progress monitoring for Tier 2 and 3 students.

"At first it was just something that they had to do," said Jaime Conti, Instructional Coach and Intervention Coordinator for Lake Forest Academy. "Now that they see the progress their students made compared to the year before when we didn't have aimswebPlus, they say, 'Oh, I really get it now.' And now I get questions like, 'When can I get the benchmark done?

When will we have that data back? When can we change their progress monitoring goals?' This year our teachers have become the owners of the data, which is what we were striving for."

According to Conti and Moates, teachers and students found the aimswebPlus interface easy to use, which reduced the amount of time required for assessments and monitoring and protected classroom teaching time. "The kids picked up on it fast. They all know their logins, they know what day they do it in their classrooms, they walk right to the computer and get it done first thing, and then they go about the rest of their day. It's not even a question," said Conti.

The Data Tells the Story

Administration, scoring, and reporting for aimswebPlus is completed on the secure aimswebPlus platform using traffic light-like color coded reporting in an easy-to-read format. The reporting system can be accessed from any web-enabled device and provides documentation of educator ratings and valid, reliable, research-based evidence of early literacy skills. In addition, it:

- Accurately identifies at-risk students
- Automatically groups students based on instructional need and intensity
- Determines specific learning gaps in key skills
- Quickly evaluates the effectiveness of interventions for individuals and groups
- Monitors and reports individual and group growth within the current year
- Identifies students at-risk to not meet end-of-year state proficiency targets

The most important thing to us is results and the data tells us that aimswebPlus is helping us better meet the educational needs of our kids. That's what really matters to us.

—Courtney Moates, MTSS Instruction Specialist for the New Hanover County Schools

"We screen every single kid that walks into our buildings whether we feel they might be at risk or not," continued Moates. "We don't serve the interests of our students using instinct and experience alone. When we have data to tell each student's story, it solidifies our approach and the progress monitoring helps us adjust interventions to keep every child moving forward."

Results Matter

"aimswebPlus has made a huge difference in our instruction because teachers now say, 'I have the information that I need to differentiate how I apply that skill' because they figured it out in the system," said Conti. "Our teachers now see how important aimswebPlus is for focusing on foundational skills and that has resulted in really significant improvements with our kids."

"The most important thing to us is results and the data tells us that aimswebPlus is helping us better meet the educational needs of our kids. That's what really matters to us," concluded Moates.

Learn more at aimswebPlus.com

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