

CASE STUDY

Targeted School Improvement Efforts Produce Significant Achievement Gains in One Academic Year



Nestled in the town of Wichita Falls, Texas, Kirby Middle School started the 2018-2019 school year with less-than-ideal news: an 'F' rating from the state, placing them in improvement required status. With a large population of at-risk students, high teacher turnover rates, and low student scores, the school was suddenly faced with the possibility of a state takeover.

The years following were met with the COVID-19 pandemic, causing massive disruptions to Kirby's school improvement efforts. School leaders pushed forward anyway, conducting a thorough needs assessment and putting forth their "2022-2023 Campus Improvement Plan." The plan specified six primary priorities, including

providing teachers with job-embedded support in implementing interventions proven to close achievement gaps and four school goals, including *"recruit, retain, and support teachers and principals"* and *"build a foundation of literacy and numeracy."*

To effectively meet the school's needs, goals, and priorities to turn the school around, Kirby partnered with engage2learn (e2L) to provide support in implementing individualized coaching for leaders and teachers across the school on evidence-based interventions proven to accelerate student outcomes.



The Strategic Solution in Action

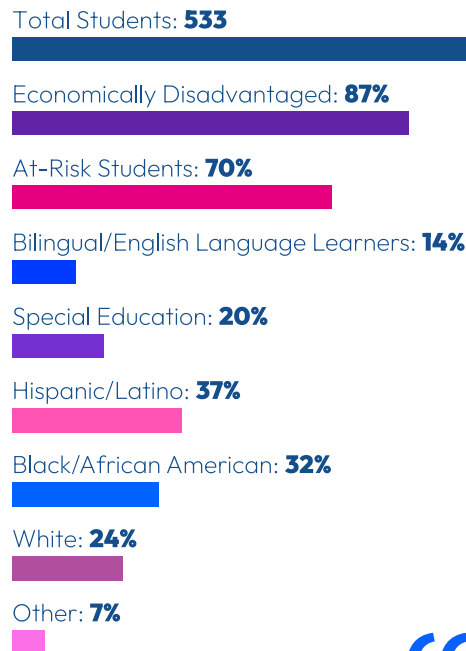
In January 2023, e2L began conducting weekly classroom walkthroughs and intensive, one-on-one coaching on research-based instructional best practices and competencies. The school's principal and two assistant principals also began receiving coaching from e2L, focusing their learning on instructional and organizational, leadership-focused competencies.

While some educators received coaching from a Certified e2L Data-Informed Growth Coach, others experienced coaching through mySmartCoach, e2L's self-paced coaching tool. Designed to empower educators with on-demand, high-impact support — even without access to an in-person coach — the use of mySmartCoach increased Kirby's capacity to provide more of its

teachers with the targeted, competency-based coaching necessary to accelerate student outcomes.

Empowered with guidance from the professional learning rubrics, teachers and leaders across Kirby hit the ground running, demonstrating significant growth within the first couple weeks of coaching. Utilizing GroweLab, e2L's all-in-one educator support platform and the home of mySmartCoach, teachers and leaders began submitting evidence of implementation for their coaches to provide either synchronous or asynchronous feedback on. With that feedback in hand, educators continued growing, earning over 100 badges and microcredentials in GroweLab in less than four months!

Student Demographics



“It means a lot to me for this school to be successful. It means a lot to me for these kids to be successful. Having students work through the Buerk rubrics is what allows me to identify the needs, classify my kids' areas of understanding, and be able to specifically target certain areas with certain students.”

– Aaron Rask

6th Grade Math Teacher, Kirby Middle School

An Outcome of Hope

Just a few months of coaching has had a profound impact on teacher effectiveness and student achievement across Kirby Middle School, boasting a 10-12 point improvement to effectively turn the school around and save it from the threat of a performance-driven state takeover.

Looking ahead, Kirby students will be moved to Hirschi High School for the 2024-2025 school year — plans that

were in place before the improvement required status in response to facilities needs — and their new accountability rating will follow them to their new school. Thanks to the dedication of Kirby educators and e2L coaches, students across Kirby Middle School are well on their way to promising growth, better scores, and a hopeful future.

“
It’s significant improvement,
and that’s what we wanted
out of our kids...
We’re ecstatic about it.*”

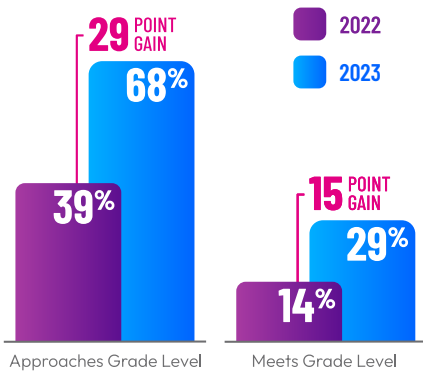
– Dr. Donny Lee
Superintendent, Wichita Falls ISD

*Choate, Trish. “Success: Kirby Middle School performance lifts WFISD out of the danger zone.” Times Record News, November 2, 2023.

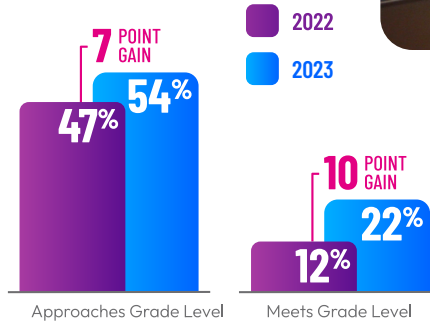


2022-2023 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) Performance

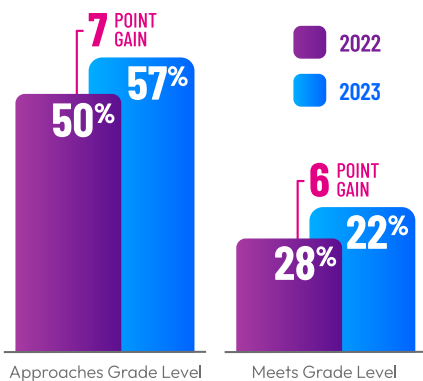
6th Grade Reading



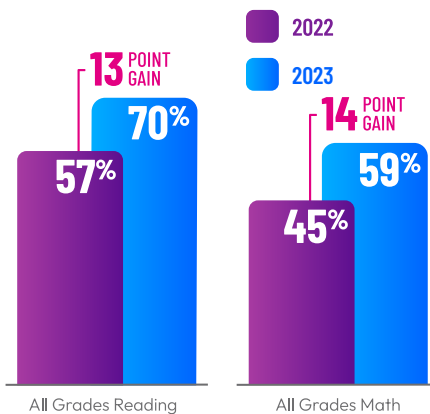
6th Grade Math



All Grades, All Subjects



English Language Learners



Behavior & Discipline

- In-School Suspensions
- Out-of-School Suspensions

