

School Transformation in the Time of COVID

WHEN SHORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL in the Arlington Independent School District (ISD) received an “Improvement Required” rating from the state heading into the 2018-2019 school year, the school’s new principal, Katina Martinez, and her dedicated team put their heads together to find the right solution. After not seeing the results they hoped for in the first year, however, the district turned to engage2learn (e2L).

The Strategic Solution



Heading into the 2019-2020 school year with e2L as a strategic partner, Short Elementary and six other district schools committed to a responsible rollout of individualized, job-embedded coaching for educators and administrators across every grade level (K-6). Utilizing the leveled e2L Best Practices for Blended Learning Rubric, school staff got to work. Drawn from 800+ carefully researched studies, these high-impact instructional best practices are proven to improve learner outcomes across all student groups, especially when paired with immersive training and job-embedded coaching.



Like the rest of the country, Arlington ISD students and teachers didn't return to in-person school following spring break 2020. On track to go from an 'F' rating to a 'B' rating in just one year, Short Elementary leadership had to come to terms with the widespread pause in testing, leaving them with the “Improvement Required” label for a while longer.

Motivated by the immense progress they'd already made in such a short amount of time, however, the school pivoted quickly to virtual coaching. A seasoned virtual organization, e2L transitioned smoothly to continue providing robust, individualized coaching support during especially challenging circumstances.

“Our core issue was lack of effective Tier I instruction, and there was a lot that needed to take place on campus. I felt like partnering with e2L would be beneficial for my teachers as we were shoring up that instruction because **focusing on best practices** is what e2L was bringing to the table. **That made my decision very easy.**”

- **Katina Martinez**, Principal
Short Elementary School, Arlington ISD

With testing unavailable, Short Elementary leadership relied on advanced data analytics in GroweLab — e2L's all-in-one teacher support and instructional coaching platform — to monitor educator growth and mastery of best practices by way of progress badges earned within the platform. At the end of the 2019-2020 school year, teachers and staff receiving coaching had earned 84 badges on critical best practices, including **Differentiation and Scaffolding, Assessment and Formative Feedback, and Standards Alignment**. By the end of the 2020-2021 school year, Short Elementary coaches had earned an additional 119 badges, signaling that improved student outcomes data was to come.



The Outcome

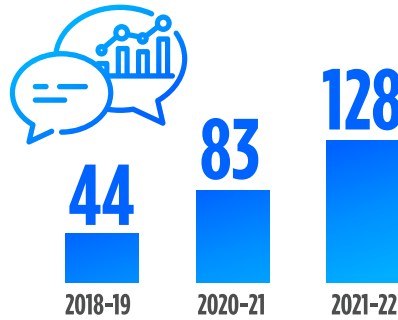
On the heels of the 2021-2022 school year, the third year of coaching from e2L, educator growth continued to soar and student assessment data followed suit. Today, across nearly all grades, subjects, and demographics, Short Elementary students are performing better than they did in the years preceding the “Improvement Required” label, in spite of COVID-related roadblocks. Utilizing GroweLab to analyze recent student achievement data, school and district leaders are able to correlate educator and student growth data side by side – supporting the stories of change they’re seeing on the ground and showing the transformative power of Education Intelligence in real time.

In a time when many public schools are struggling to mitigate the effects of disrupted learning, job-embedded coaching from e2L and a school staff committed to growth has led to student performance that exceeds pre-COVID data — a remarkable achievement.

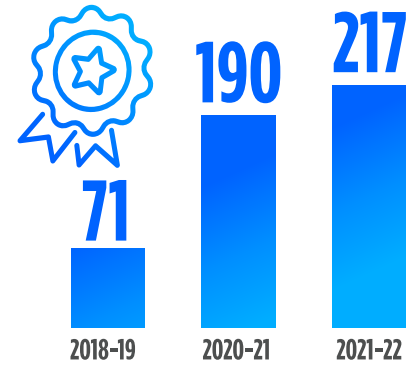


Cumulative Coaching Impact

Total Coaching Touches

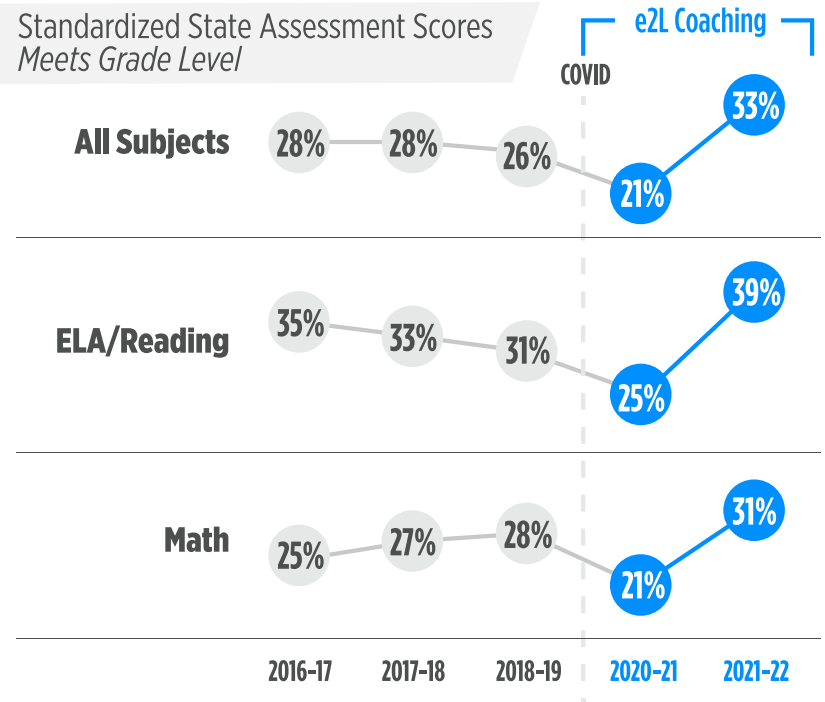


Total Badges Earned



Performance Exceeded Pre-Covid Achievement

Standardized State Assessment Scores Meets Grade Level



“The aha moment came after our first common assessment (CA)... You could walk into any classroom — it didn’t matter what grade level — and see best practices starting to take shape....**When we looked at the data, we were making double digit gains in all of our domains.** It was just like, ‘Oh my goodness. This is working. We’re on to a great thing here.’”

- **Katina Martinez**, Principal of Short Elementary School, Arlington ISD

At engage2learn, we’re on a mission to help the neighborhood public school be the first choice for every family. Since 2011, we’ve partnered with K-12 education leaders to upskill talent, streamline systems and accelerate achievement. Our talent development systems, rooted in rigorous academic research and on-the-ground coaching experience, consistently link adult learning to tangible results in public school districts nationwide. We help our partners create schools where leaders love to lead, teachers love to teach, and learners love to learn.