

Students Make Major Gains on TCAP (2012)

Tullahoma City Schools, TN

Quick Facts

- **Number of Years with Classworks:** 4
- **Number of Students:** 3,155
- **Number of Schools:** 7
- **Demographics:** 20% Students with Disabilities, 50% Economically Disadvantaged, 29% Title I

Goals

- Teachers will use Classworks for individualized instruction in a lab setting and on classroom computers; TCAP scores will be imported
- Teachers will review student data through reports and use that data to adjust their instruction accordingly

Tullahoma City Schools implemented Classworks® instruction and assessment in grades K – 8. By automatically connecting standards-based assessments to instructional activities, Classworks accelerated learning for students while giving teachers the data they needed to make informed instructional decisions.

From 2011 to 2012, Tullahoma City Schools' students who used Classworks achieved measurably higher gains on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) Achievement Test in Mathematics and Reading/Language Arts than those students who did not use Classworks.

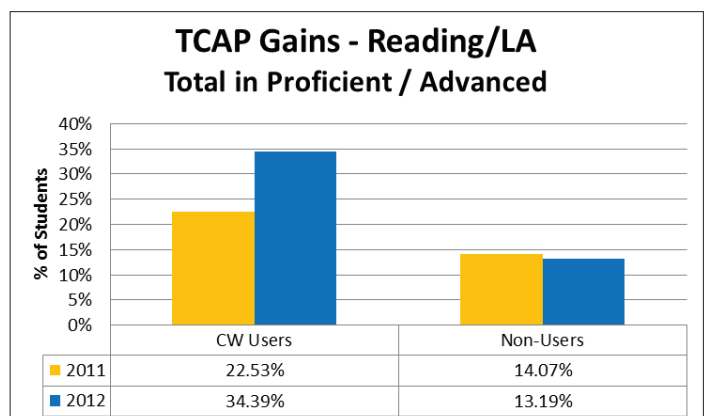
Background

Located in the rolling hills of middle Tennessee, Tullahoma City Schools enrolls 3,500 students in eight schools. To achieve maximum success, Superintendent Dan Lawson believes the focus of all district purchases, including technology, should be on increasing student achievement.

"Decisions we make today may be in place for a generation of learners, so it's important to do your homework and make wise choices," said Dr. Lawson, who was formerly named Tennessee Superintendent of the Year.

"We spent a considerable amount of time looking at other software implementations and comparing the programs that were available. Classworks fit the bill, and it continues to evolve and grow with us."

– Dr. Lawson, Superintendent
Tullahoma City Schools



Students using Classworks had an increase of 11% compared to those who didn't use Classworks.

Challenge

Dr. Lawson purchased Classworks to improve student success for ALL learners. To achieve this goal, Tullahoma City Schools needed to find a program with a comprehensive assessment solution linked to individualized instruction:

- Rigorous, standards-aligned curriculum to help teachers better differentiate instruction for all students, from accelerated to struggling students.
- Individualized instruction that is automatically assigned based on each students' needs.
- Standardized benchmark assessments to help teachers measure students' academic progress against state standards throughout the year – before high stakes testing.

Implementation

Having begun its implementation of Classworks in 2009, Tullahoma City Schools has experienced success each year and is actively using Classworks to improve performance for students who are performing Below Basic or Basic.

The focus for 2011-12 was to ensure fidelity of implementation across all schools and to target students performing on Basic level for at least 45 minutes a week in Classworks in both Mathematics and Reading/Language Arts. Students accessed the software in school computer labs and in classroom computer centers.

To maximize effectiveness, Tullahoma City Schools continued to use both Classworks instruction and Assessment Suite to accurately target instruction and assess progress.

Using Classworks' Custom Assessments, teachers easily evaluated students' current concept mastery and measured their progress throughout the year. Utilizing the data from assessments, Classworks automatically created Individualized Learning Paths for each student, providing instruction aligned to Tennessee state standards and the Common Core State Standards.

In addition, students performing at Basic level were given Custom Assessments build on the Checks for Understanding, to ensure they would be able to reach the Proficient level.

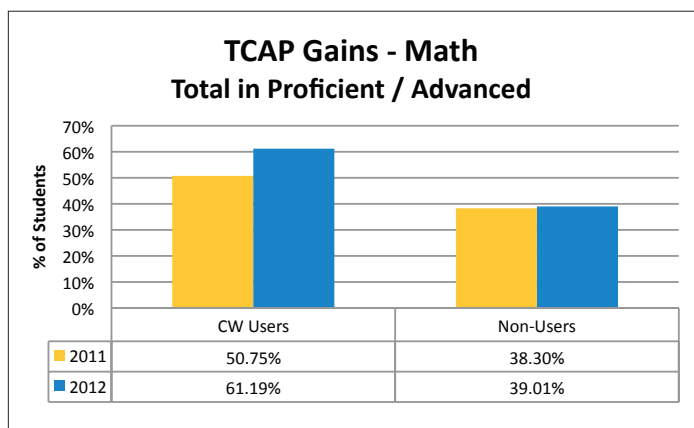
"This year, we used Classworks in a very strategic way – creating specific Custom assessments that would pinpoint the exact needs of Basic students to ensure we could move them up to proficient. And it worked!" exclaimed Dean Holland, Director of Instruction.

To ensure fidelity, the Classworks Implementation Manager worked with teachers and administrators to ensure that all stakeholders were using the Classworks reporting to monitor progress. At a glance, educators could assess if the learning was mastered or if additional instruction was needed.

Results

From 2011 to 2012, students in grades 3–8 who used Classworks achieved higher gains in Mathematics and Reading/Language Arts on the TCAP Achievement Test than Non-Users. This analysis tracked results of a cohort of students and their performance moving from Below Basic and Basic to Proficient and Advanced from 2011 to 2012.

- In Mathematics, **Classworks Users increased by 10.45%**, while Non-Users increased by only 0.71%.
- In Reading/Language Arts, **Classworks Users increased by 11.86%**, while Non-Users decreased by 0.88%.



Classworks User: At least 12.5 hours of Classworks instruction

Non-User: No Classworks instruction

In addition, Robert E. Lee Elementary has used Classworks for the past four years with progressive improvement. In 2012, they scored all A's in both the Academic Achievement and Value Added categories on the Tennessee State Report Card. This was the first time Tullahoma City Schools has had a school complete the rare feat of scoring all A's in both areas.

"This is a tremendous win for Robert E. Lee Elementary, principal Dr. Gail Holland, and Classworks. I believe it's due to all the hard work of Gail and her staff, combined with how well they have used Classworks. The ability to individualize instruction for our students has been critical to our success," said Holland.

"Every year we are amazed at the power of Classworks to help our students succeed. We like Classworks because it's vibrant, it makes the differentiation of instruction much more viable, and it leads to accomplishment. We are proud to use Classworks."

– Dr. Lawson, Superintendent
Tullahoma City Schools