

A Superintendent's Thoughts

Tuscaloosa City Schools Sees Success After First Year with Classworks

Background: Tuscaloosa City Schools, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, began implementing Classworks in the Summer of 2012. To begin the school year, Classworks Universal Screener was prescribed to measure student readiness for instruction. Then, students in Tiers 2 and 3 received Classworks Individualized Learning Paths (ILPs), providing personalized interventions based on their specific needs. Throughout the school year, the teachers and administrators of Tuscaloosa City Schools worked hand-in-hand with Classworks to ensure the program was implemented with fidelity. After just one year of implementation, Tuscaloosa has already seen the many benefits of Classworks assessments, instruction, and reporting.

A Letter from Superintendent, Dr. Paul McKendrick:

Classworks was the perfect choice for Tuscaloosa. It addressed so many of our needs and provided tremendous support for our staff. A Universal Screener diagnoses and informs instruction while reports sorted by teacher, class, and student allow us to easily review students' areas of strength and concern. The program also differentiates instruction and, thus, is particularly great for remediation or interventions. We also use Classworks for assessing the possibility of accelerating students.

Our teachers love the multitude of already developed lessons, or "units", which help them differentiate instruction. It's all there. The teachers just review and select the lesson with no arduous task of creating several lessons for the many levels of achievement in a class.

The company supports the product face-to-face, not just with emails or phone calls. A Classworks representative has been here from the initial implementation days to the continued support now.

Above all else, the proof for us has been the growth that our students have demonstrated. We have seen that growth across the board. Last year we made AYP as a district for the first time in a few years, and I would attribute that success to the versatility, rigor, and alignment of Classworks to our curriculum. It was a tremendous investment for us, and we believe we will continue to see dividends.

Would I purchase Classworks again? Absolutely.

Paul McKendrick, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Tuscaloosa City Schools, AL