



Actively Learn



Leveraging blended learning to double state assessment scores

**Columbia Middle School
Aurora, CO
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Leveraging blended learning to double state assessment scores



- State assessment scores for literacy doubled
- Supporting Colorado Unified Improvement Plan with authentic content literacy
- Engaging students across the curriculum

The challenge: Improve literacy across the curriculum

Columbia Middle School was not hitting its literacy targets. On state assessments, only 19% of students were reaching proficiency.

"Students are much more intentional about their schoolwork. We're seeing a lot more engagement and a higher percent of assignments getting done."

- Steve Hamilton, Principal

The intervention: School-wide adoption of Actively Learn

Actively Learn provided an opportunity for teachers across the curriculum to transform their literacy practices. By embedding questions in the text, providing immediate feedback, and chunking the assignment, teachers were able to engage students in their reading in a new way. Actively Learn proved especially useful to science and social studies teachers, who may not have had a

background in literacy but have used the platform to deepen understanding of content.

Results: Higher scores, more engagement, better instruction

- Columbia Middle School doubled its test scores. Almost 40% of students were testing proficient in reading comprehension.
- Students are more engaged in the reading material and completing more of their assignments.
- Students who are unwilling to speak out loud in class are sharing their thoughts in a digital "safe space."
- Students are slowing down their reading to allow for more reflection.
- Teachers are delivering feedback in the moment, chunking text, and using questions to activate thinking.

"Actively Learn has slowed down our students' reading so that they can start to get into depth."

- Emily Lavery, Instructional Coach