



Benefits of SAS® EVAAS® for K-12: A Governor's Perspective

Reliably assess and predict student performance

Introducing SAS® EVAAS® for K-12

SAS EVAAS for K-12 provides educators and policymakers with two kinds of powerful policy, performance and accountability tools: A set of reflective reports centered around value-added estimates assesses the effectiveness of districts, schools and teachers; and a set of reports proactively provides individual student projections to future performance. The SAS EVAAS for K-12 solution utilizes a longitudinal analysis that tracks individual student progress by year, subject and grade, based on a variety of assessments. Compared to other more simplistic models, these tools offer more precise, more reliable and less biased results.

Value-added measures ascertain whether educational entities are accelerating or impeding student progress. Individual student trajectories allow for more customized, proactive planning for students so that they can reach their goals or the goals established by policymakers. With these two tools, educators can provide more effective instruction to students, regardless of their achievement level.

Acknowledging that SAS EVAAS for K-12 is a valuable tool for educators, the National Governors Association included the SAS EVAAS for K-12 application in its 2003 Data-Driven Decision Making Tool Kit.



Granville County, NC: Thanks to the Redesigned Schools 2.0 initiative – a collaboration among SAS, the North Carolina New Schools Project, the Friday Institute for Education Innovation and Granville County Schools – in just two years South Granville High School is nearing its goal of 100 percent student graduation. District Superintendent Timothy Farley reports that starting with a graduation rate of 58 percent, they've seen a 20.3 percent jump, an increase in attendance and a decrease in disciplinary action. "Before we had SAS EVAAS for K-12, we blindly assigned students to course levels using end-of-course assessments," Farley says. "Now teachers have the ability to look at progress longitudinally and project the education paths students should take. Our tendency is to just look at students who are struggling, but a lot of times you'll see a reduction in the developmental scale scores of high achievers; you need to be able to ask why it is happening."

Hershey Intermediate: SAS EVAAS for K-12, known as PVAAS in Pennsylvania, is a reporting, analysis and predictive modeling environment that collects student performance data, allowing state educators to determine appropriate and effective interventions that benefit every student, regardless of his or her achievement level. Using PVAAS at the start of school to predict where students will be by summer vacation has instilled a sense of urgency among staff members to do as much as they can to affect student growth during the school year. According to teacher Brian Blase, "Knowing that a student has a low likelihood of becoming proficient gives us a chance to adjust our instruction before they take the state test. You can also look at the data at

year-end and say that we did grow the students – that's the biggest benefit. It's like having a multidirectional look – not just forward or backward, but both directions." PVAAS will play a significant role in getting more students enrolled in college by 2020.

Metropolitan Nashville Public

Schools: As stated by middle school teacher, Julie Simone, "TVAAS will be very effective in trying to reach higher graduation rates for students. ...We have to intervene as soon as we can using the scores from the third, fourth and fifth grades, so that we can make the changes that will give students a boost by the time they reach grades seven through nine. Those classes make a difference as to whether or not a student will be able to continue following a rigorous high school curriculum – it's going to make a difference in their eligibility for college."

Memphis City Schools: According to Femetres Gray, Professional Development Coordinator with Memphis City Schools – the 23rd-largest US school district, with 105,000 K-12 students and twice selected as a National No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon recipient – if more states used SAS EVAAS for K-12, America would have no trouble in reaching its goal of becoming the most educated country by 2020. "With TVAAS data, the numbers don't lie. It tells the true story of what's happening in the schools and in the classrooms. It helps teachers to really think about their practices; what they do each and every day with students. You have to look at the data and you have to be honest with yourself. It's something educators needed a long time ago to truly push instruction."

High Point Central High School:

When Revonda Johnson began her tenure as principal at High Point Central High School five years ago, the school's overall proficiency scores were below 60 percent. But after implementing SAS EVAAS for K-12, the school is now in the 70th percentile. According to Amy Holcombe, Executive Director of Talent Development for Guilford County Schools and a former district principal, SAS EVAAS for K-12 is also helping to allocate teaching resources across the county, to ensure that student educational needs are aligned with the right teaching competencies. "Our goal is to achieve an equitable distribution of the most effective teachers across the district, so that all of our students have access to the very best teachers. At curriculum meetings, we look at budget and resource restraints to see where we need more focus. SAS EVAAS uses color codes to illustrate which courses we're doing well in and which ones are suffering and need additional development. When you have a restricted budget and resources, it makes it easy to know where to make investments."

Person County School System:

Using SAS, the Person County School System has reduced its critical report writing from days to hours, increased math proficiency from 39 percent to 80 percent, saved tens of thousands in substitute teaching costs and improved its grant application processes. With more students engaged, the school system is seeing an increase in graduation rates. SAS EVAAS for K-12 is helping the county significantly improve student academic performance and graduation rates across the region. "We've used SAS EVAAS for K-12 for over a year and it's probably made the most difference.

Our graduation rate is currently 70 percent and our goal in five years is to increase that to 95 percent. The data we're producing with SAS is helping us with that cause," says Deanene Deaton, Director of Accountability and Media Services. "We've had great success using SAS EVAAS for K-12 for student math placements. We use student projections and longitudinal history for math placements in middle school and high school. Last year our math scores in those levels went from 39 percent proficiency to more than 80 percent."

Beaufort County Schools: With SAS EVAAS for K-12, Beaufort County Schools can predict success probabilities at numerous academic milestones and better measure interventions. The county now:

- *Recognizes the students most likely to need tutoring services early in the year.* By looking at a student's trajectory on testing, schools select true at-risk students. Placing students in tutoring based on one test score, or teacher assumptions gathered from the first few weeks of class, can be detrimental, as some students don't need the extra tutoring and can actually be hurt by it (if they're missing regular classroom time or begin to assume they aren't good students).
- *Identifies and increases the number of students taking algebra in seventh or eighth grade.* Building on more than 20 years of research, SAS EVAAS for K-12 looks at end-of-grade test scores in all subjects over several years to identify students most likely to succeed in middle school algebra. The number of students recommended by SAS EVAAS for K-12 is typically much higher than classroom teacher

"SAS EVAAS for K-12 allows us to shrink the gap between education rhetoric and education reform; it allows us to utilize the vast amounts of educational data available to make our schooling as effective as possible, ensuring every student receives the best education possible."

James B. Hunt Jr.

Former North Carolina Governor

recommendations. The seventh grade enrollment for algebra has doubled in the last three years because of EVAAS data. The enrollment in eighth grade algebra has increased by 20 students.

- *Distinguishes teachers and teaching methods that are particularly effective.* Beaufort County does not rate teachers using SAS EVAAS for K-12, but they will look for teachers whose students show exceptional growth from one year to the next and ask them to share their methods with other teachers.
- *Discovers which subgroups of students aren't making as much growth as predicted.* They recently found a school that was doing a great job with weak and advanced students, but struggled to help average students excel.

State of Tennessee: To further capitalize on the statewide reporting, in 2008, SAS partnered with the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to design a study to meet the state's needs and provide an annual report card on the state's teacher training programs. This report card provides valuable insight to policymakers and professors on preparing the next generation of teachers for today's rigorous standards.



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