



## CUSTOMER CONNECTIONS

### NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LEVERAGES CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT DATA FOR IMPROVED STUDENT PERFORMANCE

#### SCHOOL DISTRICT PROFILE

- More than 220,000 students
- More than 80 student administrative units

#### CHALLENGE

- New Hampshire school districts engaged in the Follow the Child initiative were looking for a way to help educators promote student achievement through an emphasis on personalized learning and assessment

#### PerformancePLUS SOLUTIONS

- PerformanceTRACKER
- AssessmentBUILDER
- TechPaths (in some locations)

#### OBJECTIVES

- Transform a pool of existing student performance data into useful classroom knowledge
- Add additional data points for enhanced student progress analysis
- Analyze data to improve student learning
- Build a comprehensive system encompassing curriculum & assessment data

**“Across the board, what I’m seeing is that people are having real conversations and they are confident about the information they are sharing.”**

—Rebecca Gagnon

Director of Technology and Assessment  
SAU 18

After conducting a review of the tools available and a survey of those already in use in New Hampshire, the Department of Education implemented PerformanceTRACKER statewide. In 2008, the DOE added AssessmentBUILDER for building and scoring local benchmark assessments.

Almost two years into the project, changes in how data is used are being seen across the state. “It’s absolutely having an impact,” said Mike Schwartz, a consultant to the DOE. “We definitely see a shift in lots of schools.”

Schwartz said implementing PerformanceTRACKER has changed the way schools integrate curriculum and assessment data. Instead of having conversations about HOW to find the data, educators in New Hampshire are now having conversations ABOUT the data. Schools are looking at data in ways that were not previously possible, aggregating (and disaggregating) groups of data and tracking individual students as needed.

Virginia Clifford, Educational Consultant at the DOE, said she has been seeing changes in how data is accessed and used. It’s now easier to access and analyze.

“PerformanceTRACKER is taking data and making it usable at the classroom level,” she said.

Rebecca Gagnon, Director of Technology and Assessment at SAU 18, has seen the positive impact implementing PerformancePLUS has had on the conversations educators are having about education. Franklin School District, part of SAU 18, is a prime example.

As a result of challenges in special education, Franklin School District has been designated as a district in need of improvement. In order to ensure progress, the SAU is making some changes. “We have committed ourselves this year,” Gagnon said. “We said absolutely we will have a New Hampshire standards-based curriculum.”

With the help of PerformanceTRACKER and TechPaths, SAU 18 has been reviewing the New Hampshire standards and pinpointing the differences between the written and taught curriculum.

“We analyzed the gaps we had and what standards we were really not teaching,” Gagnon said.

With PerformanceTRACKER and TechPaths, the process of reviewing and renewing curriculum is more data driven. Now, instead of relying on one teacher’s gut feeling about performance or curriculum, the SAU can make decisions based on real data.



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"Now we look at data to decide," Gagnon said. "We are making decisions based on hard evidence...Across the board, what I'm seeing is that people are having real conversations and they are confident about the information they are sharing."

Thanks to a statewide agreement to supply AssessmentBUILDER to schools, Gagnon said schools are now working with the PerformancePLUS professional development team to create quality local benchmark assessments.

These assessments will give teachers more opportunities to gauge student learning, making it easier to revise instruction based upon the results.

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