



## Beverly City School District

When Superintendent Elizabeth Giacobbe started in Beverly City, the children sat in one classroom all day with few working computers. Teachers were using textbooks copyrighted 1986, did not turn in lesson plans, and were rarely observed. Beverly City was identified by the state as a “Focus” district with significant academic achievement challenges. “Regarding [student performance] data from 2012, we were failing and therefore failing our children,” says Giacobbe.

Giacobbe worked with the Board of Education to hire a curriculum director to write new curricula, bought resources, equipped each class with computers and Smartboards, and departmentalized the middle school utilizing highly qualified teachers. With help from the state Regional Achievement Center and more eyes on the data, teachers implemented baseline and benchmark assessments to provide real-time information. Data was used to modify instruction to student needs.

### District Profile

- Schools: 1
- Grades Served: PK-8
- Total Enrollment: 296
- Economically Disadvantaged: 70%

Lofty goals were set for the faculty and every educator was accountable for student growth. Beverly used the state evaluation system to ensure the best educators are teaching our kids by celebrating excellence, supporting struggling teachers and removing teachers who were not meeting the needs of their students. Teachers were challenged to set goals with a minimum of 1.5 years’ student growth in approximately eight months’ time. Teachers used edConnect and other real-time data to reveal trends, weaknesses and deficiencies. “The more eyes on the data, the better we are,” says Giacobbe.

“PARCC really opened our eyes to the true depth of the standards and the types of questions our teachers need to be asking,” says Director of Curriculum Kerri Lawler. The Beverly City community is grateful for the ways the district uses data to encourage students to develop their strengths. Parent Devon Cappello explains that the school focuses on the whole child, individualizing communication and focusing on progress monitoring for all students.

From 2015 to 2017, percentages of students at or above grade level nearly doubled. Beverly City exited “Focus” status and were recently invited to share their incredible progress with the State Board of Education. The faculty and students at Beverly City are rising to the challenge of high expectations.

### Ask Beverly City to tell their story:

- Departmentalized middle school with highly-qualified teachers
- Implementing baseline/benchmark assessments
- Teaching staff to analyze data
- Implementing longer class periods
- Intensive, targeted instruction by Title I teachers
- Support and guidance from RAC
- EdConnect for formative assessments



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