

Amplify Science OK district 6–8 case study



The study

Yukon Public Schools (YPS) has come a long way from the one-room schoolhouse it was when it opened in 1891. Today, YPS serves more than 8,800 students and employs more than 1,200 full-time and part-time staff and faculty members.

The challenge

In 2017, teachers in Yukon were looking to supplement the dated textbooks in their classrooms when the district began the search for a new science program.

Jeramey Tamez, science coordinator for Yukon Public Schools, says the district made a hefty investment in Chromebooks, but didn't have a science curriculum that would put the technology to good use, or meet the state's rigorous new science standards.

A new approach to science instruction

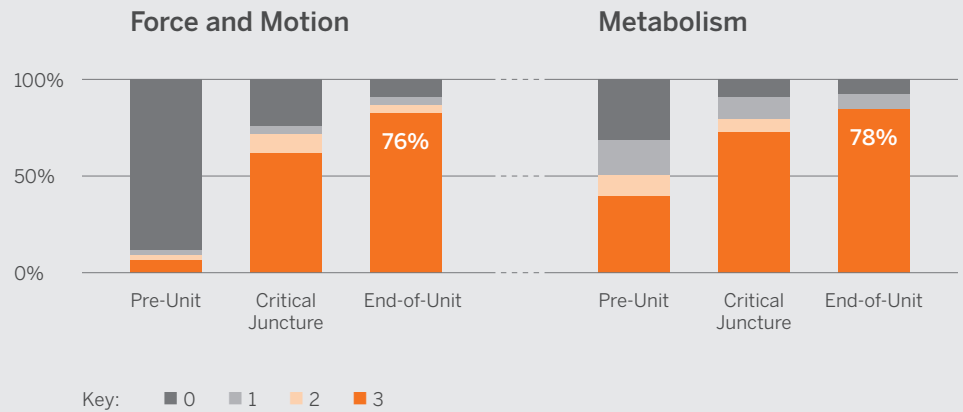
Amplify Science was built from the ground up for the Next Generation Science Standards by the curriculum experts at UC Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science. Yukon felt the program would meet the Oklahoma Academic Standards as well as put their new technology investment to use. Yukon began a phased rollout of Amplify Science with grade 8 during the 2018–2019 school year. They will be adding grade 7 next year. This past year, Yukon had more than 650 students engaged with the program.

Tamez reports that teachers can see the significant gains students are making in science and that students are also highly engaged. Data from unit assessments within the program also show that students are making strong progress in mastering critical science content.

Results

Assessments in Amplify Science measure student learning along a Progress Build, which describes how their explanations of the central phenomenon should develop over the course of a unit.

Progress Builds begin at prior knowledge and preconceptions (0) and progress through increasingly complex explanations of phenomena (3).



“The program is problem-driven, it’s phenomena-driven. We want to challenge our students to think, read, and write in science class. Amplify Science helps us package it all together.”

—Jeramey Tamez, Science Coordinator for Yukon Public Schools

For more information on Amplify Science, visit amplify.com/science.



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