



Uplift Education Integrates Data to Drive Student Success



Why This Matters:

86% of teachers seek new ways to engage students. While data could inform this engagement, 67% of teachers are not satisfied with current data tools.¹

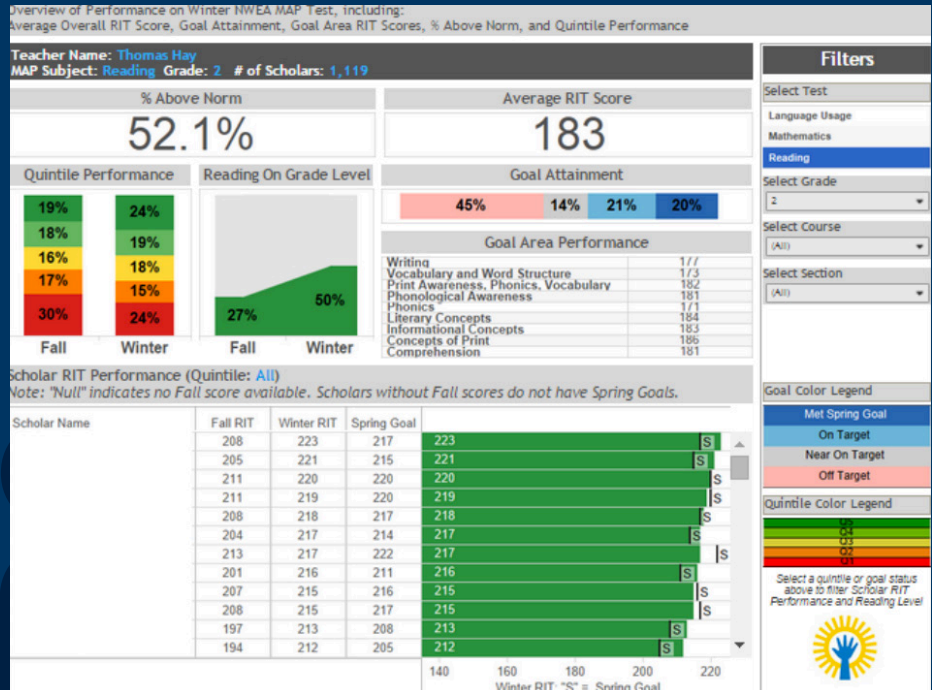
Executive Summary:

Since 2011, Uplift Education has committed to providing an easily accessible, integrated suite of data dashboards for its leaders and educators. The user friendly suite of data dashboards, part of Uplift's internal intranet portal, iShine, allows for student performance, teachers, and school operations data to be housed on a single platform. With this range of data, the suite of dashboards provides a holistic picture of Uplift schools, students, and their trajectories.

Key Takeaways:

Data can and should inform successful practices of school and classroom leaders. Some of the ways Uplift Education assures a comprehensive and effective data dashboard for its staff include:

- Continuously evaluating and improving the dashboards
- Integrating academic and non-academic data points into a single platform for a well-rounded perspective of each student
- Including teacher voice and leader feedback in the design process of the data dashboards for effective change management
- Promoting collaboration within and across districts to share best practices



Elements Monitored Through the Dashboard:

- Uplift's comprehensive suite of dashboards combines both academic and nonacademic data points for students, teacher observations and evaluations, school budgets, and operations data such as surveys and attendance
- One of the dashboards provides a unified picture of each student by integrating assessment scores, grades, attendance and discipline records
- Other features include deep dives into assessments, predictive analytics around STAAR, display of network trends, and understanding the perception of staff via survey results

How is data contributing to the success of Uplift students? Uplift Education's Director of Data Strategy, Thomas Hay, highlighted four effective steps in creating their system:

1) Continuously evaluating and improving the dashboards:

The initial vision for Uplift's data system was to provide a single place where teachers could go to track and verify that their students were college-ready. To create this structure, Uplift consulted the data teams of large hospitals and software companies. Using this industry input, as well as feedback from their staff, Uplift modified their data architecture to be a data warehouse, on top of which sits Business Intelligence Dashboards. These dashboards contain student data, teacher data, and operations data pulled from the data warehouse, with user permissions to allow staff to see the data they need.

2) Integrating academic and nonacademic data points into a single platform for a well-rounded perspective of each student:

In their current system, Uplift has integrated various data into a single location, which creates a well-rounded snapshot of every student and their performance that is easily accessible for teachers. Examples of the data include students' grades, test scores, and attendance. In addition, they have broken down academic data by TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) when possible. By standardizing this data, educators know the specific strengths and weaknesses of their students, which in turn informs their lesson plans.

3) Providing an inclusive design process that leads to effective change management:

The Uplift data system has experienced several rounds of iteration, largely influenced by teacher and leader voice. Using beta testers, focus groups, in-person trainings, surveys, and data meetings, the Uplift data team continually collects feedback from educators to ensure a user-friendly design, allowing teachers to feel empowered to make classroom decisions from the data housed in the dashboard.

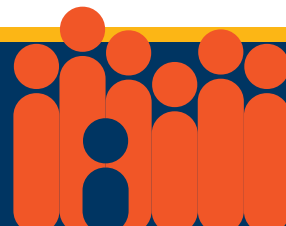
At Williams High School, for example, the staff felt they could improve with their ACT results and responded by starting a Saturday ACT Prep program for its students. Williams has since seen a phenomenal rise in their ACT scores. In the same way, school leaders can review teacher, finance, and operations data to make decisions that continue improvement for the school as a whole.

4) Promoting collaboration within and across districts:

Uplift Education recognizes that a key component in continuous improvement is collaboration. Principals have the ability to view summary data across the district, allowing them to identify bright spots and connect educators across campuses to solicit help from one another and share teaching strategies. This culture of collaboration extends beyond the Uplift district as their data team willingly shares data resources across the region, encouraging other districts to share what is working with their respective data systems.

Contextual Overview of Uplift Education:

- Uplift Education is a free public charter school network serving 16,000 students at 36 schools on 17 campuses in the Dallas-Fort Worth region. 100% of Uplift graduates are accepted into college, and 64% of the Class of 2016 were the first in their family to attend college.



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SCHOOL LEADERS
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If you'd like to learn how your district could benefit from a data dashboard, contact Thomas Hay at thay@uplifteducation.org



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About The Bright Spot Series

The Commit! Partnership is excited to highlight and share successful, data-backed practices that are moving the needle for students in Dallas County through the Bright Spot Series.

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View more at Commit2dallas.org/category/bright-spots • For general inquiry, contact Carissa.Grisham@commit2dallas.org



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