



# COX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Xenia, Ohio*



*"I find as a district leader SuccessMaker provides a quick, yet informative picture of each student within every school in the district. I am able to find information to utilize in planning what will need to be done, by subject, strand, and how long it will take to have the individual student more to a proficient level. This is a benefit to our staff who are overwhelmed with the varied educational levels within their classrooms. This program not only assists students who are below grade level but those who are exceeding grade level. Teachers are able to utilize this program to assist them in providing the educational support we are not always able to provide due to time constraints and having many standards to teach to."*

— Deborah Piotrowski  
superintendent

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## PROFILE

**School District:** Xenia Community Schools

**District Enrollment:** 5,135 students

**School Enrollment:** 314 students

**Grades:** K-5

**Free/Reduced Price Lunch:** 59%

**Ethnicity:**

- 77% Caucasian
- 23% African American

## CHALLENGE

Located in Southeast Ohio, the city of Xenia is approximately 10 miles from Dayton. Xenia Community Schools is known across Ohio for their commitment to quality education and received the prestigious Community Solutions for Education Award from USA Today. Cox Elementary School (Cox) embraces the model set forth by their district administrators and works to ensure all of their students receive a quality education.

Faced with challenges including a student population with many social and economic needs and a high mobility rate, Cox administrators and teachers were looking for a new approach. They wanted a digital solution to give them the tools to build solid math and language arts skills and provide data to help all of their students reach grade-level objectives and score proficient on state-level standardized tests.

## SOLUTION

District administrators decided Pearson Digital Learning's computerized courseware program, SuccessMaker, met their criteria and purchased it in 2011 using School Improvement Grant funds.

All of the computers in their labs and in-classroom resource centers have access to SuccessMaker. Every student uses the program several times each week during 15-20 minute sessions, for a total of one hour each week practicing their math skills and one hour building their language arts knowledge. Each student receives individualized learning within the program to ensure they reach mastery before progressing onto more complex concepts.

*Continues*



## SOLUTION (Continued)

Every two weeks teachers pull reports from SuccessMaker to determine how well students are progressing, to identify areas where individual or groups of students are struggling and to see their strengths. Teachers use this data to guide their classroom instruction or to assign students more time on the computers. For students who need extra help or even intervention, they are scheduled to use SuccessMaker either before or after school to build their skills to a level of competency.

"I like that SuccessMaker allows students to work at their own level and helps to fill in the gaps that may be missing in whole class instruction. I also like the ease of use for teachers to pull the information they need about each student," said Janet Foster, technology coach at Cox Elementary School.

## RESULTS

To test the effectiveness of SuccessMaker teachers and administrators at Cox ran reports to examine the correlation between student achievement levels on SuccessMaker and the results on the 2011 Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA) proficiency test. The data shown in the graph below demonstrates the strong shift in the performance of 3rd grade students. After just one year of implementing SuccessMaker more than 65 percent of their 3rd grade students reached a rating of proficiency or above in reading as apposed to only 30 percent the year before.

"Our students have an opportunity to become successful within the educational setting and apply this knowledge in other settings. Cox has done an exemplary job of following the program and it shows in the most recent OAA reading scores," explains Deborah Piotrowski, superintendent of Xenia Community Schools.

### Cox Elementary School 2010-2011 - Reading Growth 3rd Grade Students

Reading Proficiency	2010	Percent	2011	Percent
Limited	24	45.3%	15	34.1%
Basic	13	24.5%	1	2.3%
Proficient	6	11.3%	9	20.5%
Accelerated	6	11.3%	9	20.5%
Advanced	4	7.5%	10	22.7%

*"SuccessMaker encourages kids to work independently at their own academic level. The program provides them with immediate feedback on their performance which encourages success."*

— **Lisa Peterson**  
principal

*"Each child is working on skills at their exact level. Students are taking ownership because they can see how much they are improving by the performance reports. Immediate feedback is given."*

— **Brenda Shelton**  
4th grade language arts teacher

*"SuccessMaker is fun and it really helps people to improve their reading. I like all the different activities and games."*

— **Sabrina Brown**  
4th grade student

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