

Shelby City Schools

Preparing Students with Practice
Aligned to Ohio State Tests

August 2017



ABOUT SHELBY CITY SCHOOLS

Location: Shelby City Schools is located in Shelby, Ohio, in the northeastern part of the state.

Number of schools: two elementary schools, one middle school, one high school

Number of Students: The district serves 2,000 students from mostly rural communities, and 50% of the student population qualifies for a free/reduced meal plan



MEET PAUL WALKER

Paul Walker is the Assistant Superintendent and Director of Curriculum of Shelby City Schools. He stated on the district website, “...**The way we taught students in the past simply does not prepare them for the global world. As a district, we are focused on preparing our students for the future as well as ensuring [students] are reading on level when they leave the elementary school. It is imperative that our students have the knowledge and skills to be competitive in the job market. I am confident our teachers, students, and community will rise to this challenge.**”





CHOOSING EDCITE SCHOOLS

Paul and his colleagues wanted their school district to make the transition from teaching and assessing with pencil and paper to integrating technology into the classroom. Finding a platform that mirrored the Ohio State Tests (also known as AIR® assessments) posed a significant challenge. The platforms the district first found were very limited in their use of technology-enhanced items and did not meet Ohio expectations. Paul and his team continued searching for a platform to offer students an aligned state assessment experience.



Edcite Schools was the first assessment platform Paul found that mirrored the Ohio State Tests. In spring of 2015, Shelby City Schools began using Edcite Schools in some classrooms and made the decision to fully invest in using the platform across the district in the 2016-17 school year.

THE WIN FOR PRINCIPALS

Principals recognized that their schools needed to prepare their students for online assessments and did not want students to be at a disadvantage when navigating the state assessment platform at the end of the year. Since the district had already incorporated Chromebooks, principals in Shelby City Schools were on board immediately with integrating Edcite Schools across their campuses.

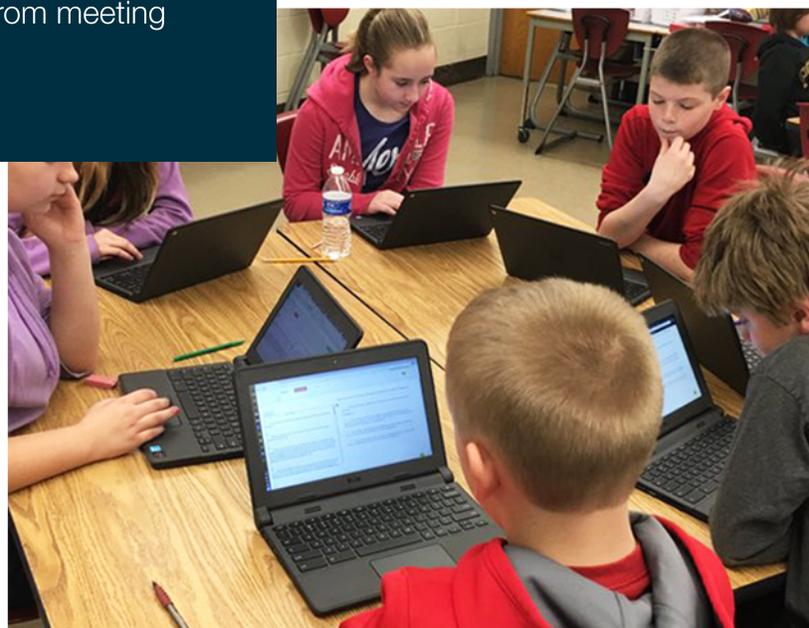
HOW THE DISTRICT GAVE STUDENTS ALIGNED PRACTICE

Paul knew that if students saw the Edcite Schools AIR® -aligned viewer across their core classes, they would be better prepared for the state assessment platform at the end of the school year.

Teachers in grades 3-8 committed to giving two to three Edcite Schools assessments every nine weeks. By the time students took the Ohio State Tests, each student in these grades had been assessed with an AIR® viewer 40+ times. If students know the content, the technology should not stop them from demonstrating that mastery.

MEASURABLE IMPROVEMENTS IN 2016-17

The Ohio Department of Education recently moved the Indicators Met from 75% to 80%, meaning that 80% of students in a grade level and subject must show “Proficient” knowledge on their Ohio State Test. Therefore, in 2016-17 students had to achieve higher scores than in the past. With the familiarity gained from practicing with Edcite, Shelby City Schools were pleased to learn that students in grades 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8 met indicators in math this year. ELA scores were just a few percentage points away from meeting the 80%.



GOALS FOR THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

While the district has been giving Ohio practice assessments on Edcite and customizing assignments shared into the Edcite Assignment Library, their next step is for departments to create their own rigorous common assessments.

Paul wants to continue to give Shelby City Schools teachers autonomy and to give parents the reassurance that students are not being given “cookie cutter” assessments; rather, teachers create assessments that fit the needs of students in their classrooms.

The district also plans to increase reading comprehension and ELA Indicators Met by diving deeply into data analysis. They will do this through the use of diagnostic assessments and comparing assessment data using the robust reports available within the Edcite Schools platform.



LEARN MORE ABOUT EDCITE SCHOOLS

To learn more about how Edcite Schools can help your district give students practice aligned to your state assessment, email us at schools@edcite.com or visit edcite.com/lp/es