



Florida students improve reading, math skills with Istation

UCF study links students' Istation results to Florida Standards Assessments scores

A group of Florida educators in the Florida Keys' Monroe County School District credits Istation, an educational technology tool created by a Dallas-based company, for significant student performance improvements as they prepare for the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) statewide standardized tests.

With Istation, teachers have the ability to monitor students' learning achievements as they deliver targeted instruction. Istation's on-demand assessments provide lessons based on students' individual performance.

"I love that [Istation] tiers my students and provides individualized interventions that I can use to help my struggling students," said Jessica Lockwood, a third-grade teacher at Poinciana Elementary School in Key West. Her class uses Istation Reading every week during reading rotations.

"I have seen an increase in my students' Lexile levels as the year has progressed," Lockwood said. "Overall, our class has gone from a 525 Lexile average to a 705 Lexile average. Istation mirrors our state standards and has skills that will be on the Florida Standards Assessment."

All but one of Lockwood's students have seen significant improvement in Lexile scores, which indicate reading ability. One student even moved from a 400 Lexile average to 1120. To put that in perspective, Lockwood explained, a student with a 400 Lexile average comprehends less than 25 percent of what they read, whereas a student averaging 1120 comprehends between 75 and 90 percent.

A recent study conducted by the Morgridge International Reading Center at the University of Central Florida confirmed that student results on Istation assessments can predict their performance on the FSA. This gives teachers the opportunity to

use Istation's feedback to prepare their students for the statewide assessments.

"Istation has been a very successful tool for our very youngest readers," said Kelly Brower, literacy coach at Plantation Key School (pre-K through eighth grade) and Coral Shores High School in Tavernier.

"Our kindergarten students are experiencing growth in every tier in both reading and math," she said. "In overall reading and ability in math, we have watched all of our Tier 3 students move into Tier 2. All of our Tier 2 students are now Tier 1 students in both reading and math."

Even advanced students are benefiting, Brower noted, as the district's Tier 1 students have continued to grow in both reading and math. Brower said Istation's detailed data on individual student performance is a great tool for providing a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS). The data allows teachers to pinpoint strengths and weaknesses in both reading and math.

"Istation then has teacher-directed lessons that allow the teacher to pull a small group of students and teach a targeted lesson that addresses the students' areas of opportunity," she said. "Istation allows for a teacher to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all the students in the classroom."

Caitlin Nicklaus, Elementary MTSS Coordinator and Academic Interventionist at Horace O'Bryant School, said Istation's data was very helpful in the classroom.



"What I most appreciate about Istation is the variety of reports it provides," she said. "I'm constantly looking at how the tier distribution aligns to the conversations I'm having with grade levels in regards to how their students are doing overall. There is quick access to tier distribution in classes, grade levels, and the entire school."

Sarah Adams Morton, K-12 Literacy and MTSS Coordinator for the district, said, Istation was a critical to the district's literacy efforts. "Istation is an essential component of our MTSS," she said. It provides the data, teacher-led interventions, and individualized computer-based instruction. The program fully supports student literacy growth."

Istation's products are aligned with Florida state educational standards. The company's innovative reading, math, and Spanish programs use award-winning animations and content to immerse students in an engaging and interactive environment that inspires them to learn. Istation Español encourages dual-language learning by using small-group and collaborative instruction. Istation just won its sixth straight Best Education Software – or "BESSIE" – Award from The ComputEd Gazette.

Contact our sales team to learn how to get started with Istation.

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