

# Catoosa County elementary students continue to achieve math and reading gains with DreamBox in the 2021-2022 school year

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## Catoosa County School District, Georgia

Catoosa County School District comprises 16 Pre-K – 12 schools in Georgia and serves approximately 10,500 students. In 2016 to 2017, Gina Haynes, Director of Elementary Education, and the assistant superintendent looked more closely at 10 elementary schools’ response to intervention (RTI). According to Haynes, they found that their interventions needed more structure. After attending an RTI workshop, it was clear to district leaders that they needed an education technology program “that was evidence-based” and “would fill in those gaps and meet the needs for our kids,” says Haynes.

In 2018, “we started with a math program, and it wasn’t showing what we needed,” says Haynes. “It wasn’t meeting the needs of our students, and so then we did some investigating, and we came across DreamBox [Math].” The combination of DreamBox Math’s proven results and student achievement prompted Catoosa County School District to become a customer in 2019. “I’ve never had complaints that it’s not engaging,” says Haynes. “The kids really like it.”

At about the same time, Catoosa County also became a DreamBox Reading (formerly Reading Plus) customer. The district looked for an online age-appropriate reading program that would increase middle school students’ reading comprehension, fluency and speed. DreamBox Reading was the right program to fit that bill. Haynes says, “It’s relevant reading material that’s current, that they like and enjoy, and they have choice in.”

Since becoming a DreamBox Math and Reading customer in 2019, Catoosa County students have achieved exciting math and reading gains. That success continued in the 2021 – 2022 school year. K – 2 students who completed five or more lessons per week grew 1.10 grade levels in DreamBox Math since the beginning of the school year. Additionally, students in grades 3 – 8 using DreamBox Reading averaged 2.2 reading level gains.

In conjunction with DreamBox Math and Reading’s ability to meet each student’s unique needs, this academic success can be attributed to the district’s strategic intervention planning. Across the district, schools’ interventions are called the Catoosa Way.



### District Demographics:

Pre-K – 12 schools	16
Students	Approx. 10,500
Teachers	Approx. 780
Language spoken at home (children 5 years and over):	95.1% English only

### Student Diversity

White	91%
Black	2%
Hispanic or Latino	3%
Asian	1%
Two or more races	2%



## What is the Catoosa Way?

1. Catoosa elementary schools have a 45-minute intervention block built into their daily schedule.
2. Every Tier 3 student is required to use DreamBox Math.
3. The intervention block has stations that students rotate among, time to work in a small group, 1:1 with their teacher and to work independently on DreamBox.

DreamBox student reports help inform small groups and where in the curriculum students need support. Haynes and her team presented the Catoosa Way to academic coaches in their elementary schools. Academic coaches work with teachers to align on the Catoosa Way intervention structure and ensure it's implemented with fidelity.

## Strategic data monitoring

Monitoring student data has also been critical toward ensuring all schools are implementing the Catoosa Way. Haynes and her team developed a strategic team of educators called the Academic Support Intervention Team (ASIT). They meet every six weeks to analyze each student's data. If they notice students are not making progress, the team works with building leaders to discuss schools' interventions. The ASIT confirms whether interventions are being implemented in the Catoosa Way. It also looks at whether teachers are meeting 1:1 with struggling students and assigning DreamBox lessons that support students' need with specific skills. The ASIT will "ensure [educators] are doing what they're supposed to, and if [students] are not making progress, then the team brainstorms," says Haynes. "We really keep an eye on our students to make sure that we're filling those gaps for students and we're getting them on grade level."

Catoosa County is strategic about monitoring their schools' data. Haynes says the admin team and coaches look at schools' milestone and benchmark scores, "and we meet with the schools that are struggling," she says. "We meet with the assistant principal, and we look at their data. We have a conversation, and we help them plan their next steps."

**"My passion is to make sure our kids are successful."**

– Gina Haynes,  
Director of Elementary Education

When groups meet to analyze student data, whether they be school psychologists, members of ASIT or academic coaches, DreamBox is one of the key data points educators look at to monitor students' progress. "Because this is a research-based, evidence-[based] program, we lean heavily on the data," says Haynes. Haynes makes sure to meet with her DreamBox support team (members of Customer Success, Professional Development and Sales) frequently to look at student data, stay proximate to the district's goals and initiatives and receive support as needed.

Haynes shares teachers are expected to monitor their students' data on the Insight Dashboard weekly. Principals are also expected to regularly monitor their schools' data. She explains that there are academic coaches who are specialists in DreamBox Math or DreamBox Reading. These specialists are critical to helping others understand each program's data and reports. Additionally, Haynes shares that DreamBox Math and Reading training sessions "really support teachers in a variety of ways."

Catoosa County parents are also strategic partners in monitoring student progress and growth. The district has designated events for teachers to share student data with parents. "We share their benchmark data with the parent. We share their progress in their interventions," says Haynes. "They're a team member too." Teachers will share DreamBox reports with parents and discuss areas where students need more practice and how to practice at home.

The academic support intervention team is integral to students' progress. It meets regularly to ensure supporting student learning. "... that's our job and that's in our hearts is to make sure we've done everything possible to make sure that child is being successful," says Haynes. "If we [haven't done] it, then we've got to find the resource to do it, and that's what I push."



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