

Laurens County teachers and students embrace DreamBox Learning™ for math proficiency

Laurens County School District 56, South Carolina

Support and recognition for a job well done are key in the Laurens County School District 56 goal to build better number sense among its students. Eddie Marshall, Director of Federal Programs and Elementary Education; and Dr. Edith Ann Grant, District Math Specialist, kicked off the 2022 school year with a math challenge.

The purpose was twofold. First, to engage students in gaining comfort and confidence in math proficiency. Second, “For our teachers ... to better use their dashboards to maximize student learning through assigning lessons to frontload instruction, to complement instruction, and to determine how students are progressing with standards to better inform instructional groups,” Grant says. All students in grades K – 5 are enrolled and encouraged to participate in DreamBox Math.

The school district implemented DreamBox at the beginning of the year with the Laurens 56 Punt, Pass and Kick off for Math Challenge. Students who participated completed 10+ lessons in two weeks. They received free admission to the high school football game and a T-shirt. During the game’s half-time, students and teachers alike were recognized on the ball field, where they named the first winner of the DreamBox trophy. Of the more than 600 students who achieved the 10+ goal, over half of them attended the game and celebration.

However, throughout its second year, Laurens 56 continues to encourage and recognize students who complete the most lessons and the teachers who inspire them. Students at each grade level receive bragging rights for completing the most lessons. They get the Laurens 56 DreamBox Champion Brag Stick and recognition at their school and on district social media sites.

DreamBox game-based learning has captured students’ attention because it’s fun. In turn, that encourages them to dig in and use DreamBox more often. To Grant, however, it represents “manipulatives and strategies that help build number sense in our students. I also like that it’s adaptive, based on student responses and offers scaffolds for those who may not be successful the first time.” Teachers using DreamBox Math as their technology station during math workshops also use it to complement their instruction.

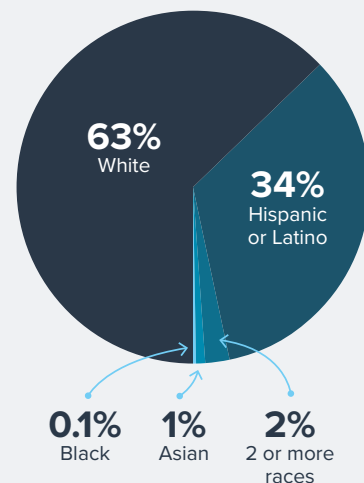


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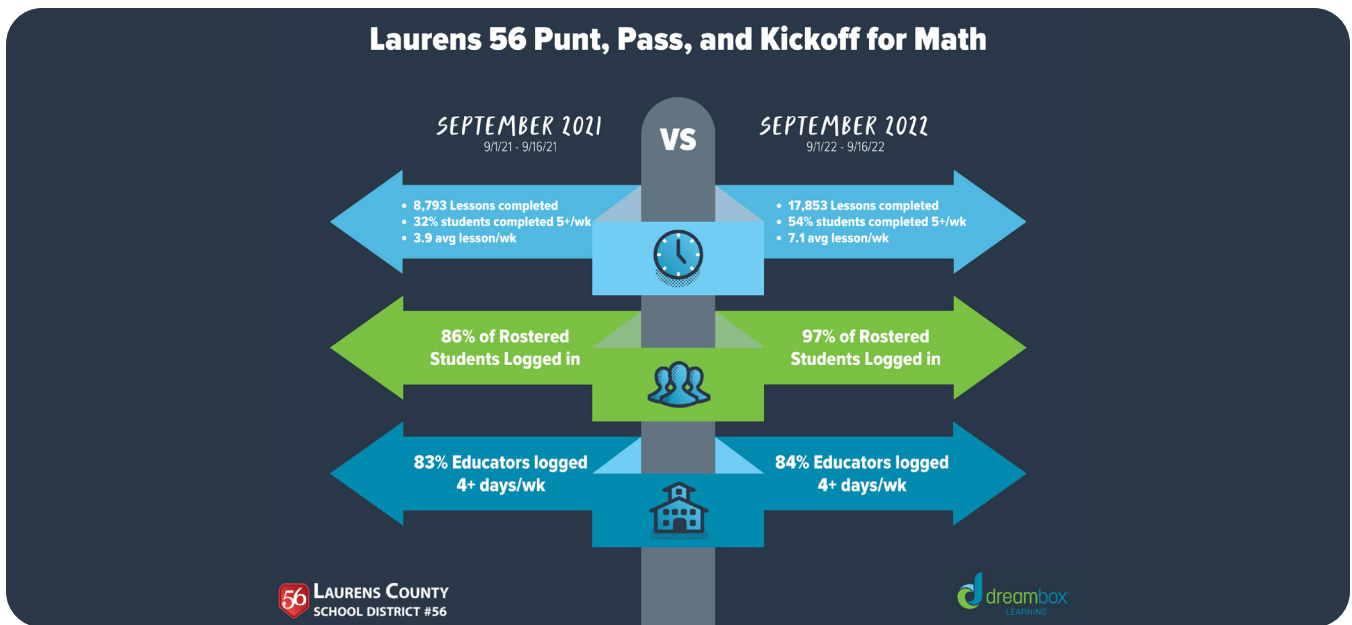
District serves six PK – 12 schools

Preschools (1)	100 students
Elementary schools (3)	1,208 students
Middle schools (1)	637 students
High schools (1)	882 students

Total students	2,827
Student/teacher ratio	14.41
English language learners	2.1%
Children with disabilities	8.4%



Laurens 56 Punt, Pass, and Kickoff for Math



As is often the case at many schools, time is at a premium. As students grow in math proficiency using DreamBox, teachers are able to learn and grow as well with excellent support from the DreamBox professional development team. “The number one aspect of DreamBox that I love is the support of our DreamBox professional team. ... They’re always a huge help with any questions we might have,” says Grant. “Additionally, they have been an integral part of our success with DreamBox, as they have encouraged us and worked alongside us to offer support through crafting professional development based on our needs, assisting with our challenges, and providing incentives. As a result, I would recommend DreamBox to other schools and districts.”

On-demand support keeps teachers on top of their game while meeting their scheduling needs. DreamBox is not another thing that teachers need to learn. It’s a way to help teachers inspire students to reach beyond their current ability. DreamBox is like giving each student a private tutor, which provides teachers with the time to work one-on-one with other students.

DreamBox introduced Laurens 56 students and teachers to Rekenreks – an arithmetic frame designed to help students visualize addition and subtraction strategies. The district purchased Rekenreks for classroom use up through grade 4. “Our students love using them to learn,” says Grant. “Additionally,

teachers have made a more focused effort to use a variety of manipulatives in their instruction to build conceptual understanding.”

To help teachers gain proficiency with DreamBox, all schools have designated DreamBox champions. They serve as school-level support for teachers. In addition, they host a 15-minute pop-in professional development every nine weeks to address teacher questions and concerns. The team also provides periodic meetings to gauge student progress with DreamBox Math and how teachers use its features.

Within little more than a year of implementing DreamBox, its popularity among teachers and students has grown. In fact, DreamBox Math is also offered to students who participate in summer camp.



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