

CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

# Texas school districts make numbers add up with DreamBox

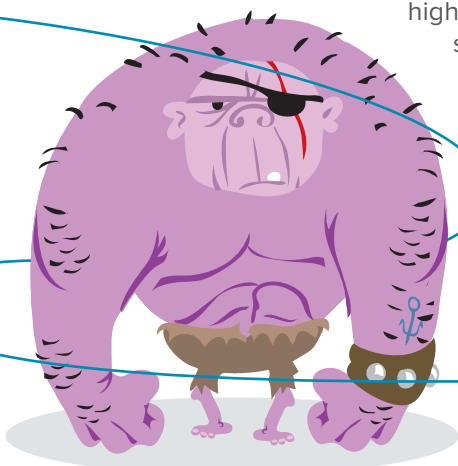
WYLIE ISD JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS SEE IMPROVED MATH PERFORMANCE WITH .5 LEVELS OF GROWTH IN LESS THAN HALF OF A SCHOOL YEAR WITH DREAMBOX

## Wylie, Texas

Wylie Independent School District (ISD), located in Wylie, Texas, serves about 17,000 K – 8 students attending 19 schools. Like many Texas towns, Wylie has its roots in agriculture and ranching and once was renowned for its onions. These days, it's more of a suburb of nearby Dallas.

Wylie ISD began using DreamBox Math in one of its junior high schools, Raymond Cooper Junior High, beginning in 2019 through DreamBox's Pilot Program. After seeing initial success, the district expanded its use of DreamBox to three junior high schools with about 900 students at each campus. That deployment benefited considerably from the work of Tracene Nechamkin, Wylie ISD math learning specialist. Nechamkin is a rockstar-level member of DreamBox's educator community, DreamBox Nation and a member of the Innovation Council, where she gains access to prerelease features and provides feedback to help shape the product direction. These activities shows how dedicated she is to improving her students' learning on DreamBox.

As with a number of DreamBox customers, Wylie was using another digital math program when they began exploring DreamBox. Although it performed adequately for younger students, when students reached junior high, problems arose. "By that time students just didn't care for it, and we got a lot of pushback," says Nechamkin. "We wanted a program that would help all students grow, and that also aligned with MAP® (Measure of Academic Progress) testing."

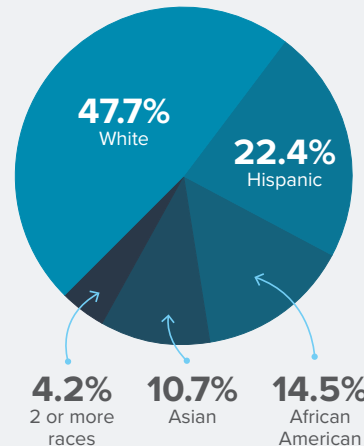


### School District

#### District Serves

Elementary schools	11
Intermediate schools (5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> grade)	3
Junior high schools (7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade)	3
High schools	2
Alternative school	1

<b>Districtwide enrollment</b>	<b>17,500</b>
<b>English language learners</b>	<b>1,800</b>
<b>Free/reduced-price lunch</b>	<b>27.9%</b>



Nechamkin undertook extensive research into what would be a good fit for her students, who have a wide range of math proficiency. She visited other districts, watched different instructional tools in operation, and talked to teachers and students. Over time, DreamBox stood out for its ease of use, popularity with students in other districts and its ability to adapt to individual student's needs.

Teachers were impressed with DreamBox's Adaptive Intelligent Learning™, which can be used for the varying needs of each student, whether for intervention, advanced studies or to supplement standard classroom instruction.

"I like the fact that DreamBox is not just full of questions and answers," says Nechamkin. "It's a tool that students really engage with, rather than just trying to get the lesson done and move on. Also, the lessons vary in length, so students can start and stop at any point. That's helpful for students."

**"It's nice to have a supplemental math program that we can rely on to help support our teachers and students, especially with Response to Intervention (RTI). I think we're going to be dealing with the repercussion from remote/hybrid learning for years to come, with many students experiencing learning loss."**

– Tracene Nechamkin,  
Math Learning Specialist

## **DreamBox Math enables flexible learning, whether remote, hybrid or in the classroom**

DreamBox also supports Nechamkin's approach to teaching math. Students should do some discovery, rather than just completing a set series of problems. The value of discovery is that students can construct their own understanding and knowledge through their experiences and reflections. This approach leads to greater student engagement. During hybrid/remote learning, the district experienced a shortage of substitute teachers, and DreamBox helped fill in the gaps when students finish their classwork. Not long ago Nechamkin was in a history class. The students finished their assignments early, so she asked them if they would rather read or use DreamBox. They chose DreamBox. "It's great that they can log into DreamBox and start learning right away," she says.

The three junior high schools using DreamBox have each adopted their own model. Teachers typically give students time on DreamBox during enrichment sessions, or when there is extra time in a class, in addition to using it as an intervention tool. DreamBox enhances classroom instruction and is an ideal tool for all learners because it meets them where they are in and helps them advance in the way they learn best.

Kris Chesnut, a math teacher in Wylie's Cooper Junior High, uses DreamBox as a homework tool for both remote and in-class students, with a goal of five lessons per week per student. It's also useful as an intervention tool for students who need

additional support.

"After sharing the simple approach to DreamBox lessons, my students were pleased with the length of the assignments and enjoyed the hands-on manipulatives," he says.

"And I can definitely see better results in class from my students who are avid DreamBox users. One of my favorite things to hear when introducing a new topic is the kids saying, 'Oh we already did this in DreamBox.' It's nice that some topics are already introduced to them, and I can spend more time either reinforcing or extending the lesson."





## A big help for remote learning

Compared with other remote-learning methods, DreamBox supported teachers by bringing students up to speed quickly, and could adapt to individual student needs. Students can monitor their own progress and success through the Student Weekly Goals feature and also use the DreamBox student dashboard to ensure they're completing the recommended five lessons per week.

Now moving into its third year of use in Wylie's three junior high schools, DreamBox has won over students and teachers.

In the future, Nechamkin sees digital learning tools such as DreamBox as a cornerstone of education. The benefits are clear, with increased student engagement by supporting different learning styles and helping to prepare students for the future. "I think we've turned a corner, and there's no going back," she says. "Teachers are more comfortable using technology

**"Using DreamBox in the classroom is very simple. We have no issues logging in with the use of Clever. Students enjoy it and many enjoy taking a break from typical classroom lessons to work in DreamBox."**

– Kris Chesnut,  
Teacher

in the classroom, and students enjoy using digital learning tools for learning. It's going to be a huge part of education going forward."



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