

Research Brief

Bedford County Public Schools

BEDFORD, VA

Eighth-Grade Students Excel on Virginia End-of-Course Tests

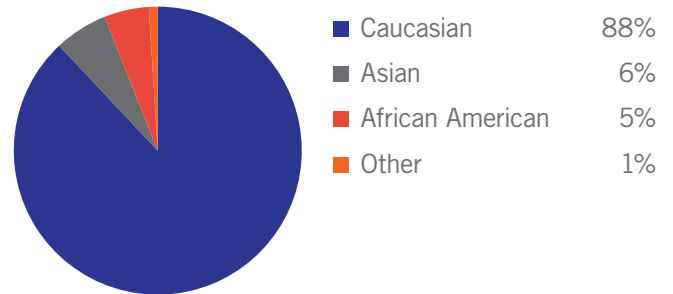
Evaluation Overview

Grade: 8

Model: Flex Model

Measure: Virginia Standards of Learning
End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments

Sample Demographics



Overview

Bedford County Public Schools (BCPS) is located at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Bedford, Virginia. The district serves 10,316 students in grades PK–12. Thirty-six percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

Implementation

For several years, BCPS wanted to find an effective blended learning solution that would allow eighth-grade students to take advanced classes. After reviewing a variety of online instructional providers, BCPS chose Edgenuity because of its extensive course offerings and direct instruction videos led by highly qualified teachers.

In June 2011, BCPS piloted Edgenuity’s World History and Earth Science courses in an eight-week summer school program. Students accessed courses at home on their personal computers and returned to school to take teacher-supervised assessments. Certified teachers provided individualized instruction, answered questions about course content, and monitored student progress.

The summer school program was so successful that the district decided to expand the program. In addition to World History and Earth Science, the district offered a Geometry course to eighth graders during the 2011–2012 school year. Students spent fifty minutes, four days a week, on their courses in a computer lab. There, classroom aides supervised students and monitored their progress. Once a week, a highly qualified teacher provided tutoring, remediation, and supplemental Geometry instruction.



100% of eighth-grade students using Edgenuity courses passed the 2012 Virginia Standards of Learning World History and Geometry EOC tests.

Study Sample

Eighty-six eighth-grade students comprise the sample described in this report. Of these, 88 percent were Caucasian; 5 percent were African American; 6 percent were Asian; and 1 percent were either Hispanic, American Indian, or Alaskan Native. All students in this study spent a minimum of 30 days in each course.

Measures

Edgenuity Program Data

Edgenuity's learning management system tracks student engagement, progress, and achievement data. This study collected data on the total number of attempted courses, the total number of courses completed, and the average overall grade of students.

Virginia End-of-Course Tests

Virginia's Standards of Learning End-of-Course (EOC) tests are used to evaluate students' knowledge and skills at the end of a course. Students take EOC tests in Reading, Writing, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, Virginia and U.S. History, World History I, World History II, and World Geography are administered at the conclusion of each high school course. EOC assessments report student scale scores and achievement as one of three performance levels (Pass/Advanced, Pass/Proficient, or Fail/Does Not Meet). Virginia EOC Geometry, World History I, and Earth Science EOC scale score and performance-level data were collected from eighth-grade students enrolled in Edgenuity in summer 2011 and the 2011–2012 school year.

Results

Participation Level

Course usage data were collected and analyzed from 86 eighth-grade BCPS students who used Edgenuity courses. Table 1 provides descriptive data on program use. Overall, students earned an average overall grade of 90%.

Virginia End-of-Course Tests

Data revealed that eighth-grade students participating in Edgenuity courses outperformed their district and state peers on the 2012 Virginia EOC Earth Science, Geometry, and World History assessments. Most notably, while 100 percent of eighth graders using Edgenuity passed the spring 2012 Virginia EOC Geometry test, only 74 percent of students did statewide.

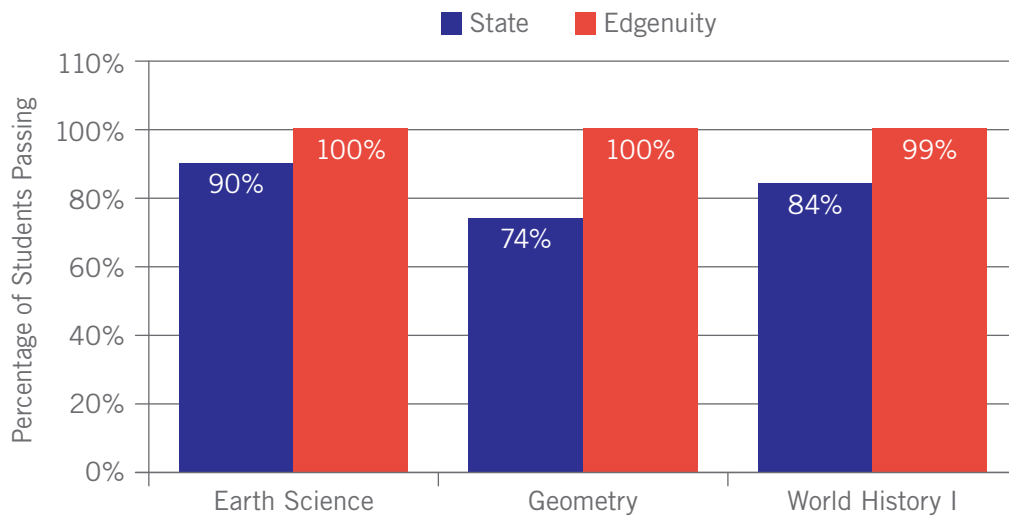
Table 1: Bedford County Public Schools Edgenuity Students, Grade 8 (N = 86)

Edgenuity Course Usage From Summer 2011 to Summer 2012

Grade Level	Total Number of Courses	Average Number of Courses per Student	Average Percent of Completed Courses
8	168	2	98%

Graph 1: Bedford County Public Schools Edgenuity Students (N = 227) and Students Statewide

Percentage of Students Passing the 2012 Virginia EOC Test, by Subject



Conclusion

Results indicated that eighth-grade students participating in Edgenuity courses excelled on three 2012 Virginia EOC tests.

Remarkably, 100 percent of eighth-grade students using Edgenuity courses student passed the 2012 Virginia World History I and the Geometry EOC tests. Furthermore, Edgenuity students posted higher passing rates than the state average on the 2012 Virginia Earth Science, Geometry, and World History I EOC tests.