

Research Brief

Locust Grove Middle School

LOCUST GROVE, GEORGIA

Edgenuity students outperform peers on Georgia state test

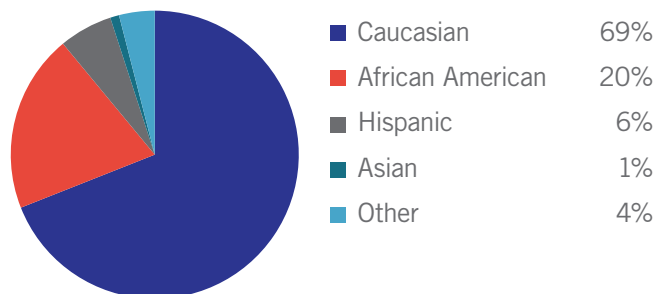
Evaluation Overview

Grades: 6-8

Model: Rotational Model

Measures: Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT)

Sample Demographics



Background

Located 30 miles outside of Atlanta, Henry County Schools is the seventh largest school system in Georgia. Over the past 15 years, district enrollment has more than doubled—from 19,000 students in 2000 to 41,000 students today. With a growing student population and new demands to provide flexible learning options, the district needed a more effective way to personalize learning for all students. The district decided to pilot a blended learning model, in which students would learn in part through online delivery of content, and in part in a brick-and-mortar instruction environment. District leaders began researching online programs and selected Edgenuity because it provides rigorous content aligned to the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS), allows students to progress at their own pace, and enables teachers to customize courses as needed. During the 2013–2014 school year, Locust Grove Middle School was one of six schools to pilot the blended learning initiative.

Implementation

Locust Grove Middle School uses a lab rotational model where learning is split into three two-hour periods. During the lab period, students use Edgenuity’s English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies courses. The “connections” period is when students engage in project-based learning and participate in physical education, art, band, chorus, or foreign language courses. In the “seminar” block, students receive small group, face-to-face instruction with a content area teacher who provides remediation or extension activities.



After one year, Edgenuity students improved their performance on the CRCT English language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science tests.

Study Sample

This report focuses on 289 7th-grade students enrolled in Locust Grove Middle School during the 2013–2014 school year. Of these, 94 used Edgenuity online courses for English language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. The remaining 195 students did not use Edgenuity; instead, they received the school’s regularly implemented curriculum.

Measures

Edgenuity Program Data

Edgenuity’s Web Administrator tracks student engagement, achievement, and progress. This study collected data on the total number of attempted courses, the average percentage of completed courses, and the average overall grade.

Table 1: Locust Grove Middle School, Grade 7 (N = 94)

Edgenuity Course Usage Data (2014-2014)

Subject	Total Number of Courses	Average Percent of Completed Courses	Average Overall Grade
Language Arts	378	83%	81%
Math	441	89%	75%
Social Studies	1,061	98%	79%
Science	409	92%	80%
All	2,289	93%	79%

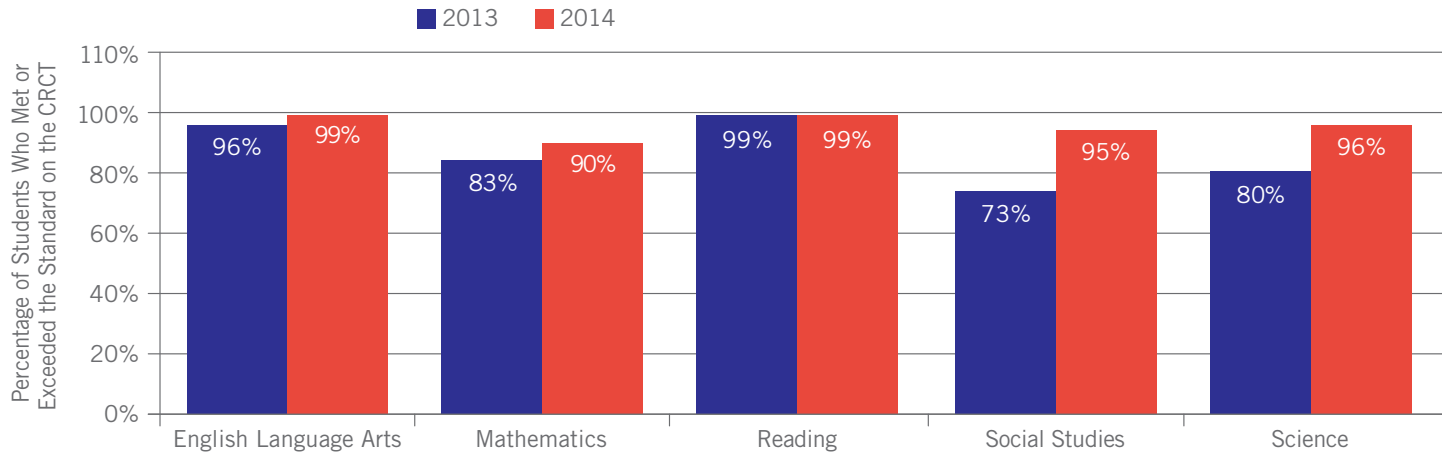
CRCT Results

2013 and 2014 CRCT English language arts, mathematics, reading, social studies, and science data were obtained from 94 students who used Edgenuity. After one year, results indicated that Edgenuity students improved their performance on the CRCT English language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science tests (see Graph 1). Edgenuity students exhibited the greatest gains on the CRCT social studies test—the percentage of students meeting or exceeding the standard increased from 73 percent to 95 percent.

In addition, 2014 CRCT scores were gathered from approximately 195 7th-grade students in Locust Grove Middle School who did not use Edgenuity. Data revealed that students participating in Edgenuity outperformed their peers on the 2014 CRCT English language arts, mathematics, reading, social studies, and science assessments (see Graph 2).

Graph 1: Locust Grove Middle School Edgenuity Students, Grade 7 (N = 94)

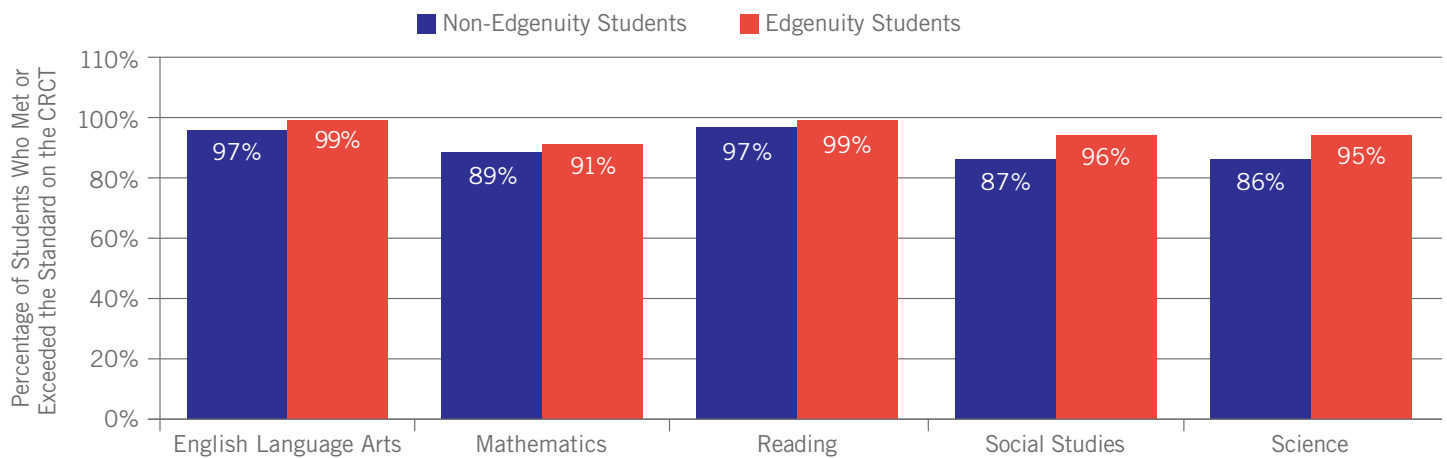
Performance of Students Meeting or Exceeding the Standard, 2013 and 2014*



*Note: Dependent t-tests revealed that gains on the CRCT mathematics, social studies, and science tests were statistically significant ($p \leq 0.05$).

Graph 2: Locust Grove Middle School Edgenuity Students and Non-Edgenuity Students, Grade 7 (N = 289)

Performance of Students Meeting or Exceeding the Standard, 2014*



*Note: Sample sizes are as follows: Edgenuity Students (N = 94); Non-Edgenuity Students, Language Arts (N = 183); Non-Edgenuity Students, Mathematics (N = 181); Non-Edgenuity Students, Reading (N = 183); Non-Edgenuity Students, Science (N = 195); Non-Edgenuity Students, Social Studies (N = 195).

Conclusion

Locust Grove Middle School students who participated in Edgenuity courses revealed improvements on the CRCT English language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science tests. In addition, a greater percentage of Edgenuity students met or exceeded the standard on the CRCT than their peers. As a result of these successful findings, Locust Grove Middle School offered Edgenuity to all students during the 2014–2015 school year.