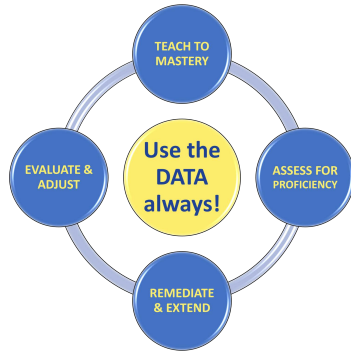


March 2024 - How to be an “A” school:
Stay in the cycle through spring!



The Alpha Plus Model of School Improvement is a cycle that is simple but not easy. [Review the basics in our [September newsletter here.](#)]

It’s just teach, assess, remediate, and use data in alignment with the Oklahoma Academic Standards (OAS). Then, do it over and over again through the “100 Days to Mastery” from Labor Day to Spring Break. Remediation and extension continue through the state tests and remainder of the year.

What happens for teachers who do? In the spring, their formative and summative proficiency rates get closer and closer. Students are prepared for the state test when these are above the 70% Alpha Plus proficiency benchmark. The following screenshot of Activity at a veteran Alpha Plus Partner School was taken March 7, 2023, sorted on A2 proficiency.

Class Name	Last Assessment	Formative Data		Summative Data		
		Objectives	Proficiency	A1 Proficiency	B Proficiency	A2 Proficiency
D Math 3	3/07/23	36 / 38	95%	10%	52%	81%
P Math 3	2/24/23	28 / 38	64%	25%	65%	76%
A Reading 6	3/02/23	21 / 21	77%	36%	55%	74%
L Reading 6	3/03/23	21 / 21	69%	33%	62%	71%
K Math 3	3/03/23	17 / 38	68%	15%	38%	71%
M Math 6	3/07/23	29 / 40	83%	0%	39%	65%
L Reading 5	3/07/23	19 / 21	61%	31%	33%	58%

These teachers administered baseline summative assessments and started formative quizzes in early September. By March, many classes had completed all objectives, but not most. **Yet the average difference in formative and summative proficiency for 29 reading and math classes at Grades 3-8 was 14.8 percentage points.** For all classes using Alpha Plus Online, the difference in formative and summative performance currently averages more than 30 points.

Formative proficiency is naturally higher because the short quiz on one objective is taken nearer the period of focused instruction than the summative, which covers all objectives. So, achieving high proficiency on the A2 summative means instruction and intervention throughout the “100 Days” has been effective.

Of course, that’s just one school; more than 20,750 students were assessing in Alpha Plus Online daily in March 2023.

As of March 3, 2023, 1,691 third- through eighth-grade math and ELA classes at 114 schools in 98 districts were administering Alpha Plus interim assessments statewide.

- 153 classes had completed all formative quizzes for their grade/subject.
- 104 of those classes had Running Proficiency Rates of 70% or higher (average was 75%).
- Classes completing all quizzes with rates above 70% proficient were led by 84 teachers in 46 schools.

If they can do it, you can do it, too! If not this year, next year. It's called a "Continuous Improvement Cycle" by state and federal officials for a reason. Our focus is student growth, not teaching perfection!

Next steps after administering A2? Teachers in classes with proficiency well below the Alpha Plus benchmark of 70% of students need to:

A. Use reports on student growth to determine re-teaching and intervention needs by OAS Objective

- Totals at bottom of Classroom Summative Report identify OAS Objectives needing most attention between now and mid-April.
- Standards at Risk report identifies groups of students (who need tutoring or other intervention) based on their performance by OAS Objective.
- Summative Test Log (download file under Management tab) compares student performance on each of the three tests and calculates true growth.
- Summative Objective Analysis can be accessed by administrators for Data Team Meetings. The SOA aggregates data by grade level and spotlights OAS Objectives at risk of failure.

B. Compare data to last state test scores of each student to evaluate expectations and monitor progress.

C. Find additional teaching resources to use in intervention activities. Call your Facilitator or the Alpha Plus office if you need help with this.

More about those formative quizzes!

When students have scored 60% on a formative assessment (3 of 5 questions correct), remediation is necessary.

- Most students who are not proficient have not learned the **vocabulary** in the standards.
- Students scoring 40% or lower lack the foundation to reach mastery in a skill and may need to work at a lower grade-level.
- One way to **differentiate** is to find content that is vertically aligned in *Success with OAS* a grade level below (e.g., 3.2.R.1 rather than 4.2.R.1), and teach the Guided Practice to those students. *[Fillable PDFs by lesson are under Classroom tab in the Resources section.]*
- Be sure you are sharing **Standard Based Report Cards** with parents so they are aware of what their students are required to learn by the state of Oklahoma.

Let us know how it's going for you!

We always welcome your feedback and recommendations, and we collect a lot through support tickets, emails and, this year, a support CHAT function.

THANK YOU for helping us ensure all educators have the tools you need to improve the results of teaching and learning in every class.

Let us know how we can help! ~ The Alpha Plus Team

Copyright © 2024 Alpha Plus Educational Systems - All rights reserved.

ALPHA PLUS EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS

3315 N.W. 63rd St., Oklahoma City, OK 73116

Call (405) 842-8408 or email admin@alphaplus.org with any questions!