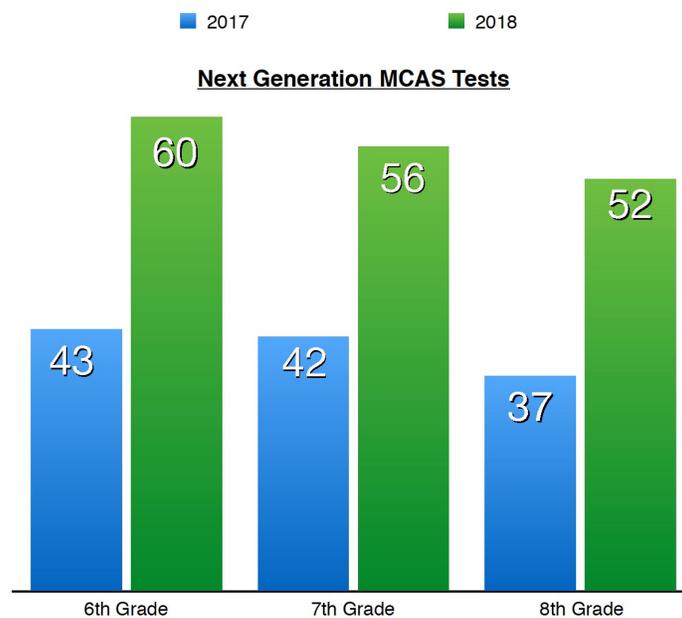


Douglas Middle School ELA Scores Increase over 30%

We have ABSOLUTELY seen an improvement in reading comprehension. Students are reading for a purpose. They are looking for answers, or at least clues, using a format that they know will provide results, they just have to unlock the truth in front of them.

- Mr. Brian Delaney, Principal
Douglas Public Schools, MA



**Percentage of Douglas Middle School students at
“Meeting or Exceeding Expectation”**

source: Massachusetts Department of Education

What was the reason(s) the district was looking for a writing solution/program?

As a new Principal at Douglas Middle School in 2016, I quickly noticed that our student population could improve on structure and continuity in their writing across all grade levels. The MCAS scores in ELA in the spring of 2017 verified my concerns in all grades. Douglas Middle School students were below state standards in most areas of ELA, but most dramatically in writing. When teachers were given the option of what to do about it, a few spoke in favor of Empowering Writers. They had attended Empowering Writers professional development in previous years. Looking to empower the teachers, we went all in with their suggestion. And it really paid off.

What was the reason(s) Empowering Writers was chosen?

We chose Empowering Writers because some teachers were familiar and supportive of the program, it has a simple (yet highly effective) process and it pays credence to a traditional (and again effective) approach for great writing.

**What is the impact Empowering Writers approach to writing has on the teachers?
Students?**

Empowering Writers offers clear, concise and effective approach to proper writing. Students learn to annotate, organize, pre-write, draft, edit and finalize writing in a systematic manner that sets the student up for success; in each grade, and in each subject matter.

What are some of the aspects of EW's methodology or strategies or lessons that have made a noticeable difference?

The systematic approach to effective annotation of main ideas and supporting details, gathered in graphic pillars that act as blue prints to proper and well formed essays.

Have you seen an impact on reading comprehension?

We have ABSOLUTELY seen an improvement in reading comprehension. Students are reading for a purpose. They are looking for answers, or at least clues, using a format that they know will provide results, they just have to unlock the truth in front of them. Students clearly feel a sense of satisfaction that they can access the material presented to them because they follow prescribed steps and see value with the end product.

What would you say to another administer who has the same challenges your district has faced?

Get EVERYONE on the same page. Take the bold approach "THIS IS WHAT WE ARE DOING AND IT WILL WORK IF WE ARE CONSISTENT!" Train every teacher, in every class. Use the same language in every grade in every class. Use the same graphic organizers. Do the little things every time to build discipline. Consider that you whatever it is you are currently doing isn't working at the level you feel is most effective, so take a direction that is designed for one purpose, improve every student's writing at all levels.

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