

NAIKU Teacher Team School GRANT PROFILE



GRANT PROFILE: BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL, KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS

Enabling Learner-Centric Common Assessment

Bearden is a public high school located in Knoxville, TN, and part of Knox County Schools, a large school district serving 58,000 students. Bearden is a recent recipient of a Naiku Teacher Team School Grant to enable learner-centric common assessment.



Why?

Bearden wants to improve its ability to help all students learn at each level, and has observed difficulty in seeing appropriate growth from upper and lower students in particular, where data indicates many are not being reached by enrichment or remediation. Bearden believes that implementation of learner-centric common assessments will provide teachers the critical data to support individualized learning plans. Bearden is well structured to support this implementation, as they are in a multi-year plan to create a personal learning environment (PLE) in their classrooms. Teacher teams have common planning time for goal setting and the development of assessments as well as monthly professional development time. Bearden believes that all of this is critical to support the district and state Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI2) program, with the progress monitoring capability central to individualized learning plans.

Fast Facts

Knox County Schools
Located Knoxville, TN
88 schools
58,000 students
Bearden High School
Public high school, grades 9-12
1,930 students

Challenges

Bearden has identified a few challenges to overcome for successfully implementing a PLE through use of common assessments. One is the varied technology literacy of the teachers, requiring tools that are easy-to-adopt yet provide the required student data. Past attempts at progress monitoring have been unsuccessful in part due to this. Bearden also believes that all schools are faced with the challenge of student motivation, where students often lack the intrinsic motivation to complete tasks individually. Teachers have found that immediate feedback to students helps students know when they are on the right path and increases motivation.

Plan

Bearden, through the Teacher Team School Grant, is implementing learner-centric common assessments for the 2015-2016 school year. Bearden believes that Naiku's student centered and easy-to-use software, coupled with team planning and professional development time, will aid them as they move towards a personal learning environment.

"The Naiku Teacher Team School Grant has given us the opportunity to use an amazing progress monitoring tool. With all the different test and quiz building functions, our teacher teams have been able to use the program in Science, Mathematics, and English to gauge student understanding. As the focus of public education becomes data-centered, Naiku offers an easy interaction to collect data and show mastery. With the Team function, data can easily be shared within PLCs and with our administrators. The students also have the opportunity to reflect on their thinking and understanding, adding a different perspective to the data you can collect. There is so much that Naiku can do that I am still discovering its possibilities. We are so excited to be part of the grant program!"

Madeline Presson, Mathematics Teacher, Bearden High School, Knoxville County Schools