

# NAIKU CASE STUDY



## CASE STUDY: MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, LEBANON, KY TRANSITIONING TO A DIGITAL TESTING FORMAT

Marion County Public School serves over 3,300 students across 8 schools in central Kentucky. To measure and improve student achievement, the district develops and administers district-wide benchmark and summative assessments. For the past year, the district has used Naiku to deliver and score their district assessments. This case study provides a look at their successful path to better assessments by transitioning to a digital testing format with Naiku.

### A Focus on Teams and Common Assessments

To meet their high standards for student achievement, Marion County educational leaders created Professional Learning Communities (Teams) throughout their schools. “Naiku makes it easy for our teacher teams to access the assessments they need. The Naiku Teams feature is great for this,” remarked Amanda Farmer, Grades 6-12 Instructional Coach. “We needed an online testing format for teachers and teams because of the transition of state testing from paper to digital.”

To cultivate effective teams and common assessments at Marion, Farmer and her colleagues chose to transition their assessments on-line. “Naiku has helped us transition to a digital testing format. It provides a way for teachers to access common assessments to give to their students. It provides a way for administrators and instructional coaches to access data after the common assessment is given,” added Farmer.

### Key Features of Common Assessments

Common Assessment is a process that begins with the identification of priority standards to emphasize in that unit of study and ends with planned progress checks for student understanding of each learning progression—the building blocks of instruction (Ainsworth, 2015). In between lies the “unwrapping” of the priority standards, determination of the big ideas and essential questions, development of the unit learning intentions as student success criteria, and the development of valid items for the pre-assessment and post-assessment. Ainsworth (2015) provides the following guidance for the creation of the items and the common assessments:

- **Create the Post-Assessment Items First.** Common assessments should contain a blend of selected-response and short and extended constructed-response items that are aligned to the learning intentions and should be of corresponding cognitive rigor.
- **Construct the Scoring Guides.** Make performance expectations explicit by creating detailed scoring guides for the constructed-response items.
- **Create the Pre-Assessment Items.** Common assessment practices should measure growth in student learning. Compare the pre-assessment and post-assessment results to measure student growth.

### Marion County Public Schools Fast Facts

Located in Lebanon, KY  
3,300+ students  
1-to-1 Technology in Grades 6-12  
4 Elementary Schools  
2 Middle Schools  
1 High School



### Primary Uses of Naiku

Common Summative Assessments  
Common Benchmark Assessments  
Naiku Teams for Sharing Tests and Data

### Successes Measured

30,900 Items Developed  
6,500 Assessment Created  
97,800 Assessments Taken

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With their success of collaboratively creating and delivering common assessments through the Teams and Folders features in Naiku, Marion County are able to enjoy other benefits of moving to an on-line assessment platform.

## Other Benefits of Naiku to Marion County

Marion County uses the Infinite Campus student information system and gradebook. Now that their assessments are delivered in Naiku, with the integration between Naiku and Infinite Campus via LTI and OneRoster, teachers and students can also readily single sign-on to Naiku directly from Infinite Campus. Teachers can also readily transfer student scores on the common assessments into the Infinite Campus gradebook. Farmer noted how this Naiku feature has made teachers very happy. “Being able to transfer grades to Infinite Campus is also very helpful,” said Farmer. “Naiku also gives teachers choice as to whether they want to use a paper format with bubble sheets or a digital format, or a combination of the two. The item analysis report is helpful.”

Naiku has also added great benefits to students at

Marion County. “Naiku gives students immediate results and feedback. It provides an easy way to reflect. It gives students exposure to a digital testing format. It is helpful that they can access old tests also,” added Farmer.

With their subscription to Naiku, Marion County also has a subscription to the Navigate™ Item Bank, by Certica. Designed to guide instruction at the district and classroom levels. Navigate is the dynamic item bank of over 78,000 standards-based items, as well as pre-built assessments that allow educators to quickly measure student performance.

Navigate supports a range of item types to assess standards appropriately and reflect the intent of more rigorous standards, including:

- Multiple-Choice Items
- Constructed-Response Items with Scoring Rubrics
- Mode-Specific Writing Prompts with Scoring Rubrics
- Multipart Items
- Technology-Enhanced Items (TEIs)

	Aug '18	Sep '18	Oct '18	Nov '18	Dec '18	Jan '19	Feb '19	Mar '19	Apr '19
<b>Tests Taken</b>	6700	11,209	9,501	11,369	11,537	6,195	11,071	13,060	7,597
<b>Mean Actual Score</b>	71%	73%	73%	75%	72%	71%	74%	71%	78%
<b>Mean Predicted Score</b>	77%	76%	74%	77%	73%	78%	75%	74%	75%

## TRANSFORMATIVE

### Naiku Educator Spotlight

Amanda Farmer is an educator with over 17 years of experience. She taught middle school math for 15 years. This is her second year as an instructional coach. One of her main challenges as an instructional coach is building relationships with teachers and convincing them to try new strategies. She and her colleagues at Marion County are doing just that now with their adoption of Naiku across the district.

“We needed a platform for administering common assessments, so that assessments and data were easily accessible for all stakeholders. We need an online testing format because of the transition of state testing from paper to digital. Naiku has been that platform. My role now is to help teachers use this new online testing platform.”



Amanda Farmer  
Instructional Coach  
Marion County Public Schools