

# NAIKU CASE STUDY



## CASE STUDY: THOMAS COUNTY SCHOOLS, THOMASVILLE, GA PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE GEORGIA MILESTONE ASSESSMENTS

Thomas County School serves over 5,800 students across 6 schools in southern Georgia. Thomas County has the area's most comprehensive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs. Their students score above state, national, and global averages on College Board Advanced Placement exams. To attain and maintain their high academic achievements, Thomas County Schools made a significant investment in technology for their students and teachers. As part of that strategic plan, for the past several years, the district has used the Naiku assessment platform to create, administer, and score their district assessments. This case study provides a look at their transition to digital learning and assessments.

### A Focus on Digital Learning

Erin Rehberg, Digital Learning and Media Services Coordinator for Thomas County Schools, knows the importance of digital learning. However, a successful transition to digital learning cannot be abrupt to classroom teachers. "One of the main challenges I face is encouraging teachers to be innovative and step out of their comfort zones," explained Rehberg. "That's why we encourage our teachers to base technology use on the SAMR model." The SAMR model, detailed below, presents a phased approach to educational technology adoption. As the first phase, Thomas County required teachers to give existing common and benchmark assessments in Naiku, providing the benefit of automatic scoring and immediate standards-aligned reporting. After completing that phase, teachers began to further augment and modify to incorporate digital assessment more fully into their classroom practice.

### Key Features of the SAMR model

The SAMR model is a framework created by Dr. Ruben Puentedura for classroom technology integration. The four steps or degrees of integration from the model present a simple yet effective way for teachers to incorporate technology into their classroom instruction.

- **Substitution.** In this phase, technology is directly substituted for a traditional one (e.g., using Naiku to bring paper-based tests on-line).
- **Augmentation.** In this phase, technology augments an existing practice (e.g., using technology-enhanced items along with traditional multiple-choice items in Naiku).
- **Modification.** In this phase, transformation starts to take place when technology allows educators to add or modify current practice (e.g., using Naiku to create/share assessments and data with PLCs).
- **Redefinition.** In this phase, technology has transformed current practice (e.g., using Naiku's metacognitive features to encourage student self-assessment and awareness).

### Thomas County Schools Fast Facts

Located in Thomasville, GA  
5,800+ students  
3 Elementary Schools  
1 Middle School  
1 High School  
1 Charter School



### Primary Uses of Naiku

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

### Successes Measured

118,000 Items Developed  
52,500 Assessment Created  
505,000 Assessments Taken

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## Thomas County Assessments

In two years of using Naiku, Thomas County teachers have created over 118,000 items and 52,000 assessments. Their students have taken over 500,000 exams. They took over 200,00 tests in the first year and increased to more than 300,000 in the second year of using Naiku. This trend is reflective of their use of the SAMR model to smoothly introduce online assessments to their teachers and students.

Another benefit of having the assessments online using Naiku is the integration with Infinite Campus. As Naiku seamlessly integrates with Infinite Campus via both IMS LTI and OneRoster, data and information can flow back and forth between Naiku and Infinite Campus. This streamlines teacher activity as staff and student accounts are automatically setup and maintained, based on the connection to Campus. Teachers and students can also readily single sign-on to Naiku directly from Infinite Campus. Similarly, student test scores can automatically transfer into the Infinite Campus gradebook. Rehberg noted how these Naiku features have made teachers very happy. "Being able to access common assessments, have students login with Infinite

Campus, have the grades drop back into the gradebook, and have data reports are all benefits of using Naiku," said Rehberg. "Teachers are able to easily share common assessments with their peers and analyze the data," added Rehberg.

Rehberg also noted a key benefit to students when they take their assessments on Naiku. "They are more prepared for high-stakes testing online," remarked Rehberg. This was one of the district's assessment goals. They wanted to give common assessments and benchmarks tests online in order to prepare their students for the Georgia Milestones assessments.

Thomas County made significant investments in technology for their teachers and students. They followed the SAMR model to smoothly integrate technology into the classroom. Their transition to on-line assessments with Naiku provides a compelling case study of their use of the SAMR model. As a result, teachers now give both district common assessments and classroom assessments in Naiku. By taking their district and classroom assessments on Naiku, students are now well prepared for the Georgia Milestones.

### *Benchmarks and Classroom Assessments Taken on Naiku by Thomas County Students*

Year	Tests Taken	# of Tests Predicted	Mean Predicted Score	Mean Actual Score	% Passing (Score > 70%)
2017-2018	202,244	68,033	80%	76%	67%
2018-2019	305,302	69,453	81%	77%	71%

## TRANSFORMATIVE

### Naiku Educator Spotlight

Erin Rehberg is an educator with over 15 years of experience. She taught high school English for seven years and served as a middle school media specialist for five years. One of her main challenges in her current role as a digital learning coordinator for Thomas County is managing all of the district's instructional technology software and encouraging teachers to be innovative and step out of their comfort zones.

Following the SAMR model, Rehberg has helped her teachers ease into using online assessments with Naiku. She identifies and rewards teachers who have been innovative and done this well with an annual Digital Learning All-Star teacher award. "It is important to reward those teachers who have used the technology provided to them to effectively transform the learning process in their classrooms."



*Erin Rehberg*

*Digital Learning and Media Services Coordinator  
Thomas County Schools*