

Kettle Moraine School District

Wales, Wisconsin

Location type: Large suburb

District enrollment: 4,117 students

Percentage of students in district eligible for free and reduced price meals: 36

Key Takeaways

Kettle Moraine School District has benefited from multiple administrations of the OECD Test for Schools and its increased understanding of the value of the assessment as an international benchmarking tool. Kettle Moraine had one high school participate in the 2013-2014 administration of the OECD Test for Schools, and the results raised questions about student achievement, student engagement, and the learning environment across the district. The district elected to have both its charter and traditional high schools participate in the assessment during the 2014-2015 school year. The 2014-2015 results revealed differences in achievement and the learning environment between Kettle Moraine's charter high school and its traditional high school. The district plans to analyze these results further to identify root causes for the performance difference and then implement responsive changes.

Actions Taken

-  As a first step in using the results to inform future actions, Kettle Moraine's leadership team analyzed and discussed the results and then shared them with the department heads during the summer of 2014.
 -  Before the 2014-2015 administration of the assessment, the district proactively communicated with students and parents regarding the value of the OECD Test for Schools and how results would be used. Kettle Moraine administrators believe that this effort contributed to higher student achievement as there was greater buy-in among students as they began to understand the importance of being prepared for life in a global economy.
 -  Based in part on its OECD Test for Schools results, Kettle Moraine has set a goal of shifting from compliance-based learning to student-owned learning. To accomplish this, the district taken several actions:
 - First, they incorporated an advisory period into the regular schedule and moved the traditional high school to a block schedule to allow for the deeper engagement with content necessary to achieve at the higher proficiency levels on the OECD Test for Schools.
 - Schools have also incorporated aspects of the OECD Test for Schools questions into their regular instruction as an additional means of increasing rigor.
 - Finally, district leaders are attempting to raise awareness among staff regarding the higher level of thinking required by the assessment and the need to drive students to higher levels of self-efficacy within the different content areas.
 -  Communication has served as an important element of Kettle Moraine's continued improvement efforts, and it figures prominently in the plans for future growth.
 - Specifically, the district has shared the assessment with staff by incorporating the results into data retreats that inform the district's annual goal setting process.
 -  There has also been more deliberate action around communicating to students the importance of preparing for success in a globally competitive society.
 -  Additionally, the results have been shared with middle school staff and 8th grade students in an effort to align the rigor of the middle school curriculum with that of the high schools and to expose incoming high school freshman to the importance of performing at globally competitive levels.
 -  Further, the district has conducted its own student surveys regarding the learning environment to gain a deeper understanding of student perceptions.
 -  Finally, Kettle Moraine is broadening its communications strategy to share results from the OECD Test for Schools with the wider community to further increase the commitment to graduating students that are prepared for success.
 -  In November 2014, Kettle Moraine hosted a regional meeting in Wisconsin, which brought together leaders from eight districts in Wisconsin. During this meeting, schools and districts took time to examine their OECD Test for Schools data with peers and discuss next steps as a means of developing plans for improvement based on their assessment results.
 - Kettle Moraine has scheduled another regional meeting in early 2016 and plans to host one each year so that districts can engage in an annual "check-in" on their progress with regard to improving student outcomes and preparing students for college and career.
 -  Kettle Moraine has also participated in a number of Global Learning Network webinars and the 2014 Convening of World-Leading Schools. These events provided additional opportunities to review results and share best practices with peers.
- In 2015, the proportion of students at Kettle Moraine High School performing at levels 5 and 6 rose 9 percent in reading and science, and 5 percent in math.
- Those wishing to learn more about the practices at Kettle Moraine School District may visit the district's website [here](#).*