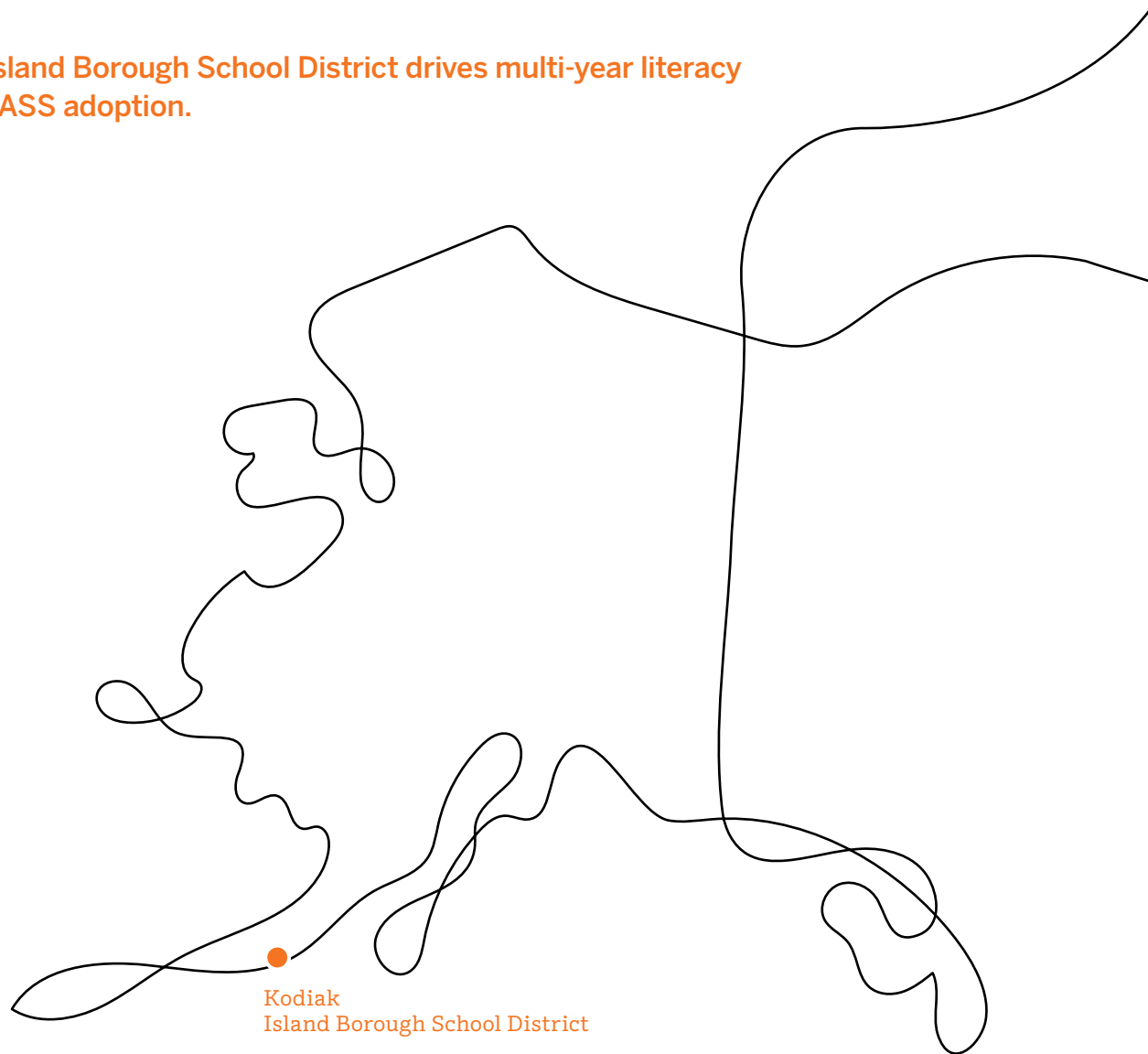


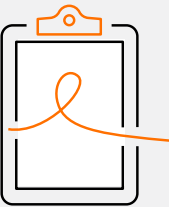
Making the shift to the Science of Reading

Alaska's Kodiak Island Borough School District drives multi-year literacy growth with mCLASS adoption.



Background

Kodiak Island Borough School District is a small district in Alaska serving nearly 2,300 students. The district is composed of 42.6% White, 23% Asian, 22% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 5.1% Hispanic, 1.6% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 0.7% Black students. In all, 10.5% of students are multilingual/English learners (ML/ELs) and 34.5% of students are eligible to participate in the federal free and reduced price meal program.



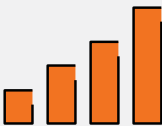
Challenge

Already a data-driven district, KIBSD welcomed mCLASS® to enhance high-quality instruction, screening, and intervention.



Solution

The district thoughtfully introduced mCLASS with a “flood in” model and train the trainer approach, to ease teachers into the new program while maintaining fidelity.



Impact

mCLASS implementation led to substantial growth, with Kodiak students outperforming state averages and significantly improving grade-level performance.

Challenge

Alaska purchased mCLASS for its districts in the 2023–24 school year to provide all students with high-quality instruction, screening, and intervention. Already a data-driven district, Kodiak welcomed mCLASS.

Solution

Administrators were thoughtful, deliberate, and intentional about how they would roll out the new program to their staff. To prepare for their first year of mCLASS, the leadership team decided on a “flood in” model for administering the assessments. Principals, instructional coaches, district instructional leads, and school psychologists received mCLASS training at the start of the school year. They then followed a “train the trainer” model to have a subset of this cohort educated to become mCLASS trainers. This full group administered assessments while teachers received training on what to do with the data.

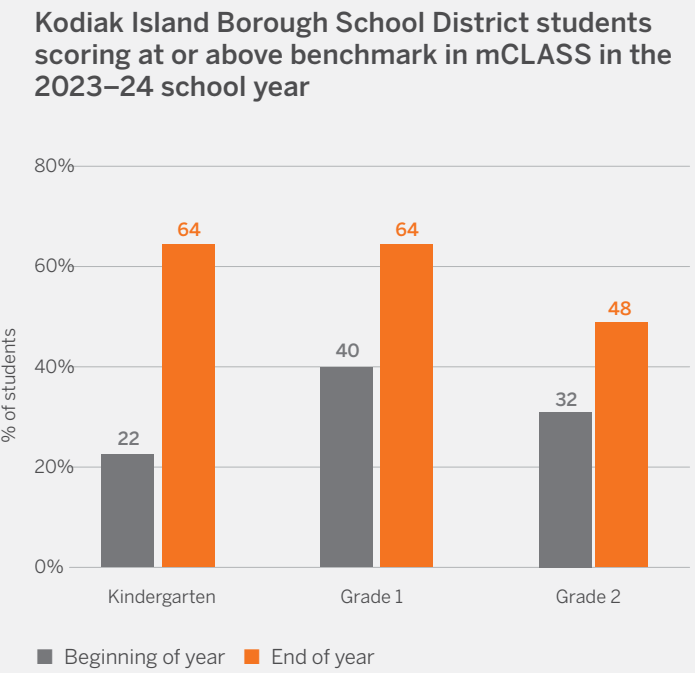
Angie Hietala, the director of elementary instruction, also established a number of practices to ensure that the data

was being used throughout the year. They included creating consistent principal coaching sessions to increase use of data, sharing progress monitoring reports in weekly newsletters to encourage regular progress monitoring, and leveraging mCLASS longitudinal reporting to communicate growth and needs to all stakeholders.

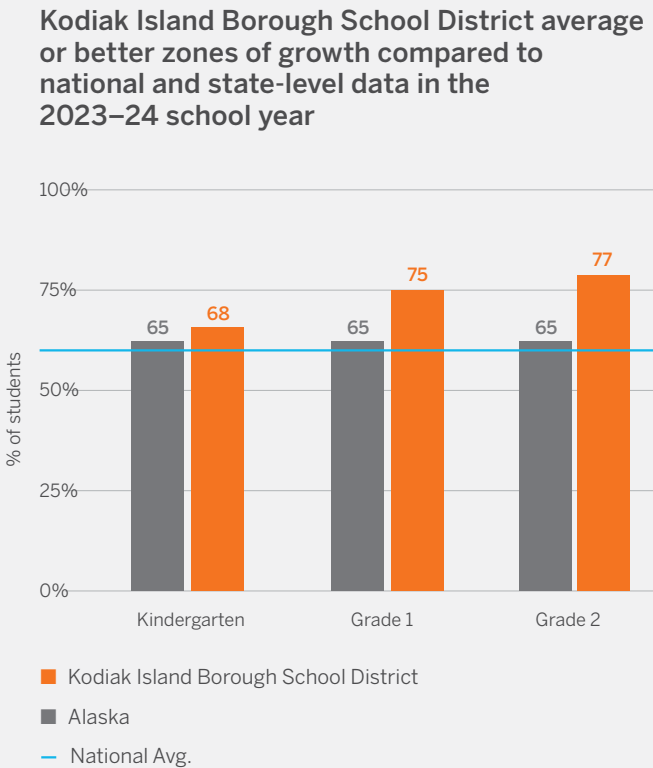
Hietala also provided LETRS training for her teachers and worked to narrow the number of curricular products used with students, to reduce the cognitive load for students and increase teachers’ fidelity to practices aligned to the Science of Reading.

Impact

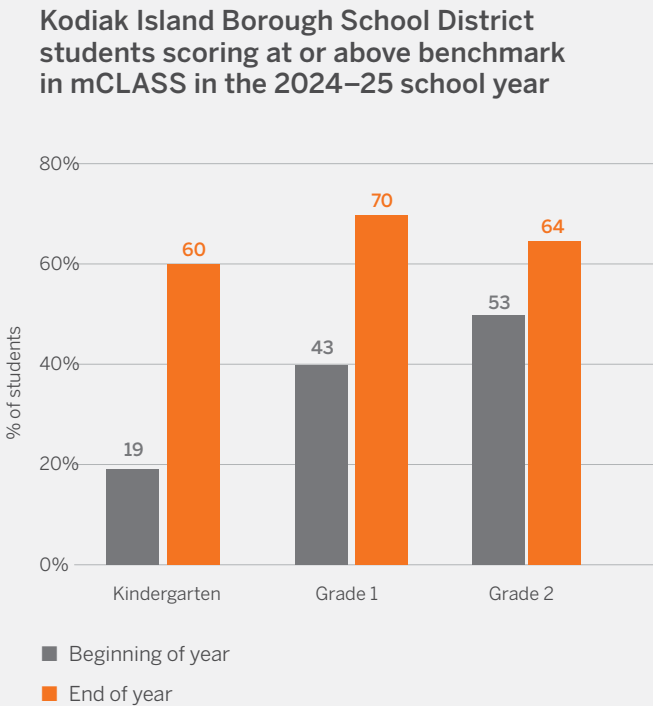
In their first year using mCLASS, students in the Kodiak Island Borough School District’s Kindergarten, first, and second grades demonstrated significant growth. Most notably, the percentage of Kindergarten students performing at or above grade level rose from 22% at the beginning of the year to 64% by the end. Additionally, first-grade students showed a 24% increase, and second-grade students experienced a 16% increase.



Students also outpaced national and state averages in Zones of Growth across all grade levels. First and second graders performed especially well, with 75% or more achieving average or better growth.



Kodiak experienced continued growth across all grades in the district’s second year of implementation. Mirroring the first year’s pattern, the strongest growth was in kindergarten, with 41% more students ending the school year at or above benchmark compared to the start. First grade also saw a notable increase of 27%, while second grade increased by 11%.



I'm really thankful that we have it [mCLASS] here in Alaska, because it's meeting our needs.

– Angie Hietala, Director of Elementary Learning

Conclusion

Kodiak Island Borough School District's adoption of mCLASS has led to remarkable student growth in its first two years, with significant gains across kindergarten to second grade. The strategic implementation and focus on data-driven instruction have set a solid foundation for continued excellence. With mCLASS, the district is well-positioned to maintain and even accelerate this momentum, fostering enhanced educational outcomes for its students in the years to come.



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suite based on the Science of Reading,
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