

### PGCPS Achieves Transformative Results in Middle Grades Math

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) is among the nation's 20 largest school districts, serving a diverse student population of more than 133,000 students in Maryland. This case study explores the results of a partnership between PGCPS Middle Grades Math and ELD teams to deliver math literacy supports.



For Dr. Michelle Dyson, PGCPS Mathematics Instructional Supervisor for Grades 6-8, the most critical goal was to get students using mathematical language in class discourse and writing. Her instruction-first focus led to major improvements on standardized tests.


“The beauty of Speak Agent is that students can manipulate the program and use it to build their academic knowledge, and teachers who are using the toolkit to plan lessons can find the same strategies they're using in the classroom within the program.”

***It's a beautiful match.*** 

- Dr. Michelle Dyson, Supervisor, Math 6-8

### A Beautiful Match

When Dr. Dyson looked at Speak Agent, she immediately saw how it could support not only her multilingual learners, but also how it could be beneficial to **all** middle graders. The district piloted *Math+Language*™ in 2019 at four middle schools and expanded the next year to more than 40 Title I schools. Dr. Dyson appreciated how the program was not “cookie cutter” and how it seamlessly fit the PGCPS curriculum framework: “We were so thankful that the ELD Office brought Speak Agent to us. We just ran with it from there.”

“Our Math and ELD departments had developed an academic language toolkit that offered specific strategies, but we were looking for a program to further support our teachers and students in developing those math literacy skills. We came across Speak Agent and presented it to our middle school mathematics supervisor. ***It was a match made in heaven.*** 

- Dr. Melissa Kanney, Supervisor, ELD Office

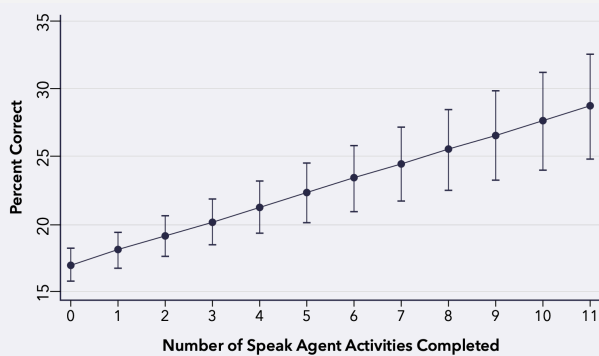
Dr. Melissa Kanney recommended Speak Agent because it matched the district's academic language toolkit and built upon it by converting the strategies into curriculum-aligned, interactive activities. The district initially implemented it with multilingual learners, but has expanded to include all middle school students. “As we looked at it and the way Speak Agent aligned with our curriculum, it proved beneficial for **all** of our students,” says Dr. Kanney.

## Partner Spotlight: Prince George's County Public Schools

### The Results Speak Loudest

In 2022, PGCPs commissioned an impact study ( $N=46,929$ ): Students in grades 6-8 who used Speak Agent outperformed their peers who did not use the program. Students who completed 10 Speak Agent activity modules experienced a 10.3% higher mean score than their peers on the PGCPs Math Benchmark test, raising the mean score for these students from **17/100** to **27/100**.

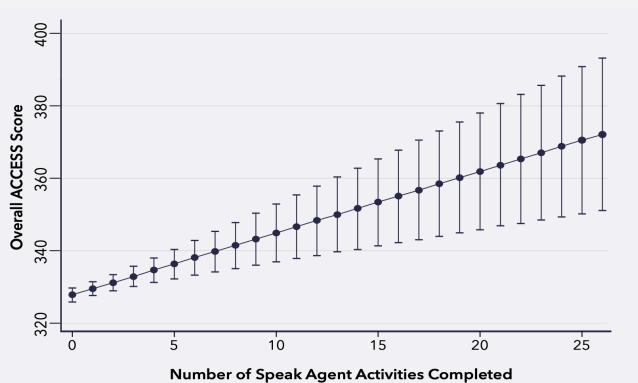
Fig. 1 Predicted Math Benchmark Scores



Huebert, E. (2022). [Effect of Speak Agent on Math and English language proficiency scores at middle grades in Prince George's County Public Schools](#). Learnlab Education.

In addition, multilingual learners experienced a **17-point** mean gain on ACCESS for ELLs:

Fig. 5 Predicted Overall ACCESS Scores

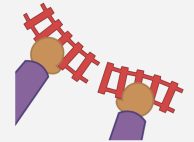


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### A Critical Support for Teachers

When teachers look at PGCPs' instructional guidance, they see Speak Agent deeply embedded in the curriculum. Dr. Dyson and Dr. Kanney agree that a key benefit of the platform is its high degree of customization. This was critical for implementation because it meant teachers had the on-demand resources they needed at their fingertips.

“We integrated Speak Agent right into our curriculum so that when you visit classrooms or look at the data, you can see the connection between what the teachers are teaching and how the product is being used,” Dr. Kanney says. “From the district perspective, we have it **everywhere** in our curriculum.” She also values the ability for teachers and staff to schedule an on-demand coaching session. “Having that kind of access to support is very important for implementation. In fact, it’s critical.”



### The Journey Continues

After achieving success with middle grades math, PGCPs has expanded its implementation to high school math, as well as to secondary science. And, as leaders in an organization committed to data-driven decision making, Drs. Dyson and Kanney see more research on the horizon.

### About Speak Agent

Speak Agent improves math and science outcomes by integrating a language component that our team customizes to fit your existing curriculum.

[Partner with us](#) →