Studer Education

KENTUCKY

Closing the Gap Through Culture and Alignment



OUTCOMES | Meade County Public Schools

ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

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Zero state/federal achievement gaps from 2023–2025 across minority students, students with disabilities, and students qualifying for free/reduced-price lunch.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

↑17 & ↑20

PERCENTAGE POINTS

Over 5 years, students receiving special education services improved 17 points in reading and 20 points in math.

WRITING PROFICIENCY

↑21

PERCENTAGE POINTS

Overall student writing proficiency climbed 21 points, from 32% to 53%.

INCLUSIVE LEARNING

↑11

PERCENTAGE POINTS

Inclusive classroom placement rose 11 points, from 74% to 85%, while writing proficiency among students with disabilities more than doubled, from 5% to 11%.

EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE

93rd

PERCENTILE NATIONALLY

Employee experience ranks in the 93rd percentile nationally.

AT A GLANCE

STATE	ENROLLMENT	SCHOOLS	FOCUS AREA	STUDER EDUCATION PARTNER SINCE
Kentucky	5,000 Students	9 Campuses	Culture & Alignment	2020

CHALLENGE

Meade County Public Schools was committed to closing persistent achievement gaps and ensuring every student had the opportunity to achieve at high levels. District leaders recognized that lasting improvement would require greater alignment across leadership, strategy, culture, and daily instructional practice.

SOLUTION

In partnership with Studer Education, Meade County strengthened leadership structures and instructional systems around a shared commitment to student success. Using Studer Education's 9 Pillars of Leadership Excellence framework, the district created greater alignment from the boardroom to the classroom and a more disciplined approach to leadership, strategic execution, stakeholder engagement, and instruction.

> *We recognized that student success could not depend on which school a child attended or which classroom they entered. Our work with Studer Education helped us build stronger systems of leadership, accountability, and continuous improvement. Today, we're much more intentional about creating the conditions for every student to succeed. Success should be by design, not by chance.*
>
> — Dr. Mark Martin, Superintendent | 2027 Kentucky Superintendent of the Year

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

EXECUTIVE COACHING

District leaders worked with a dedicated coach to sharpen decision-making, set clear priorities, and stay accountable to them

PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP COMMUNITIES

As part of the district's broader leadership work with Studer Education, Meade County redesigned its biweekly principal Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to move beyond operational updates and focus more intentionally on instructional priorities, collaborative design, and principal leadership.

ROUNDING & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Using Studer Education's K12 Rounding® technology and Survey tools, district leaders gathered actionable feedback from staff, parents, and students to inform decision-making, strengthen communication, and create greater connection across the district.

UNIFIED INSTRUCTION & CO-TEACHING

Meade County redesigned its K-12 co-teaching model and aligned master schedules to strengthen access to high-quality Tier 1 instruction for more than 90% of students.

90-DAY EXECUTION CYCLES

Strategic priorities were monitored through 90-day execution cycles, creating regular opportunities to review progress, make adjustments, and maintain focus and board alignment. Scorecard results were shared annually at the Board Leadership Retreat.

SUMMARY

Meade County Public Schools was committed to closing persistent achievement gaps and ensuring every student had the opportunity to achieve high levels. In partnership with Studer Education, the district created greater alignment across leadership, strategy, culture, and instruction — strengthening leadership practices, improving instructional systems, listening to staff, students, and families, and establishing a disciplined approach to executing strategic priorities. The work has contributed to measurable gains in student achievement, including three consecutive years without a state or federal achievement-gap label, as well as strong results in employee experience and district support.

LASTING IMPACT

Meade County's progress has earned recognition beyond the district, with the Kentucky Department of Education recognizing Meade County as a high-achieving district. Through its partnership with Studer Education, Meade County built leadership practices, systems, and a disciplined approach to improvement that continues to support the district's progress. The district is now sharing its experience and practices with other education leaders through Close the Gap Kentucky, collaborating with Western Kentucky University and 18 other districts to support stronger outcomes for students across the state.

What began as a commitment to close achievement gaps has grown into a districtwide approach that connects leadership, culture, strategy, and instruction. Through its continued partnership with Studer Education, Meade County has established practices and systems that support sustained improvement and a shared commitment to student success.