

SOUTHWEST TESTIMONIALS

REGIONS 3 & 4

Kuna Middle School Kuna Joint District # 3



Our journey from being identified as a school in need of improvement to achieving substantial gains in student achievement exemplifies the power of strategic, data-driven planning. Through active ongoing partnership with our Capacity Builder, Amber Pearson, we developed and executed a focused strategic plan that transformed our approach to teaching, learning, and leadership.

This collaborative effort, grounded in a comprehensive needs assessment and data analysis, allowed us to pinpoint high-impact priorities and implement research-based strategies that directly influenced student outcomes. As a result of this intentional work, our school achieved a dramatic shift in student performance.

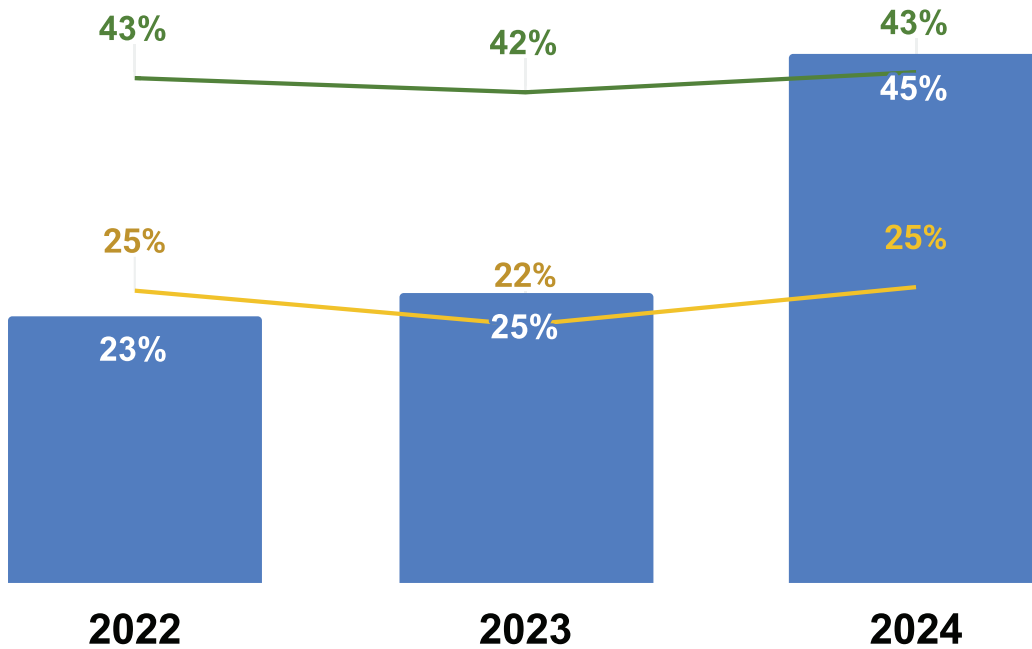
In the area of math, the combined advanced and proficient ISAT achievement increased from 24.5% in 2022-2023 to 44.7% in 2023-2024, representing a 20.2 percentage point increase. The percentage of students making adequate progress more than doubled from 31.8% in 2022-2023 to 62.2% in 2023-2024, a 30.4 percentage point increase, surpassing both district (56.6%) and state (52.8%) progress rates.

These results far outpaced district and state growth, underscoring the profound impact of our strategic plan and partnership with Capacity Builder support.

Data source: Retrieved from the Idaho State Department of Education SWIP Plan Portal in December 2024.

Kuna Middle School Math ISAT Proficiency

■ Kuna MS ■ State of Idaho - Proficient ■ State of Idaho -10th Percentile



These gains were the result of targeted, high-impact strategies co-developed and frequently monitored with our Capacity Builder. Areas we worked on were leadership transformation, effective CORE Tier I instruction, dedicated intervention opportunities, data-driven practices, professional learning communities, instructional rounds, and gallery walks.

Through this strategic plan, we have witnessed not only improved student achievement but also a shift in school culture, leadership practices, and instructional quality. This transformation is a testament to the power of intentional, focused work built around establishing collective teacher

efficacy. Our school has moved from being in the bottom 5% to a position where we now meet or exceed state performance averages in some of the proficiency categories.

Our school's story serves as a powerful reminder that, with the right leadership, focus, guidance, and persistence, every challenge can become a milestone of success.

-Michelle Manuel, Principal