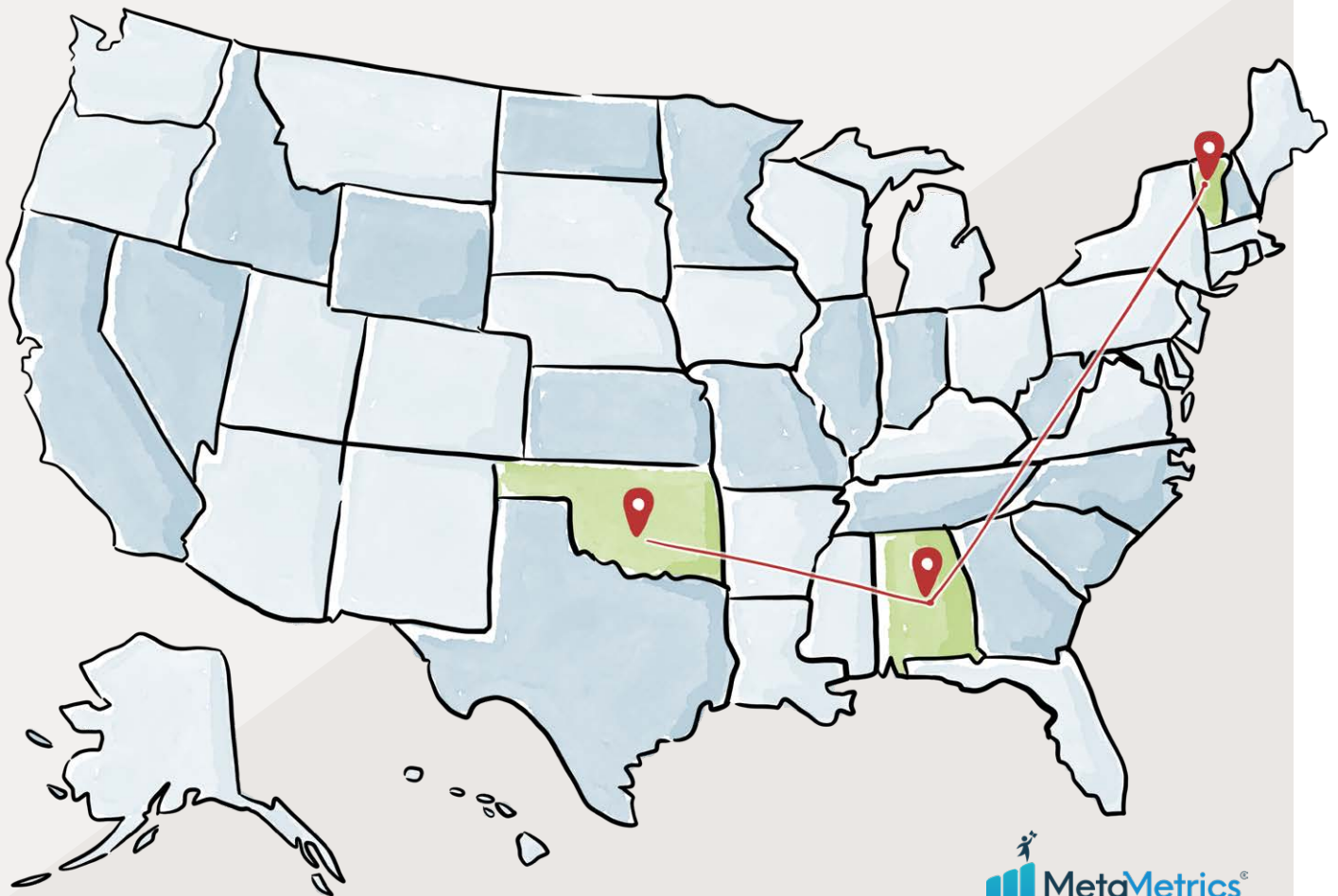


Summer 2022 Field Trip

We hit the road to learn how Lexile® and Quantile® measures make an impact across the nation. From Vermont to Alabama and Oklahoma, find out how education agencies use Lexile and Quantile measures to support student learning. Think of this as our postcard from our virtual summer field trip!



STATE PARTNER SHOWCASE: VERMONT



Vermont Summer Learning: A Community Partnership Featuring Lexile and Quantile Measures

Like every other state in the country, the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic presented the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) with unanticipated challenges when it came to ensuring its students stayed on track. However, through community partnerships and an investment of extra time and hard work, Green Mountain State education leaders leveraged available tools and resources to reach students and families at home with extended learning opportunities.

Jess DeCarolis, director of the AOE's division of Student Pathways, was charged with managing the transition to remote learning. She said, "The day before our schools closed I was made responsible for the continuation of learning remotely. We faced major obstacles when it came to implementing equitable access to online system PK-12. While a system was in place for secondary learners, younger students had low levels of access, especially those in grades PK-5.



education.vermont.gov

Montpelier, VT

- ➡ 89,624 students
- ➡ 8,403 teachers
- ➡ 264 school districts
- ➡ 318 schools

“We basically had to realign our division structure to address these challenges. We focused both on analog and online learning to reach all of our state’s students and moved quickly to leverage partnerships that we hadn’t necessarily taken full advantage of in the past, such as the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative, or contemplated before, like PBS.”

To meet the distance learning needs of students and families, the AOE and **Vermont Public Broadcasting** formed a partnership. Together, they provided access to free educational programming and curriculum over three public broadcasting channels in the state, accessible to 95 percent of Vermont households.

PBS promoted the learning shows with parents and tied them to books or activities. AOE content experts aligned resources with PBS programming. There was always a hard copy of off-line resources that parents could use. Teachers would print out copies and send them home with school lunches that were being delivered to homes while schools were closed. They quickly saw more than 1,000 teachers and 1,200 home study families visiting AOE web pages each month and Vermont PBS saw an increase in users from around 3,000 to more than 6,000 since the beginning of the partnership. This success brought to light how critical the need was for these types of resources and sparked the idea of developing hands-on learning kits to be distributed to families to support summer learning.

Emily Leute, the AOE’s ELA specialist who leads the PBS partnership, said, “Our partners at PBS showed us summer learning kits connected to programming that were available to them at the national level and, based on that model, we developed a Vermont-specific kit. It was important that our kits included offline activities because connectivity is unequitable throughout our state so we included printables and hands-on activities. Our goal was to keep summer learning fun and engaging.”



We recognized leveraging Lexile and Quantile measures was a cornerstone to addressing the challenges we were facing. We also already had a powerful network of 21st Century Community Learning Centers that served 100 school communities so we had a family engagement network in place that we could take advantage of to support any outreach we did.”

— Jess DeCarolis, Director of the AOE’s division of Student Pathways

Summer learning activities featuring **Lexile** and **Quantile** measures were included in the kits. A one-pager featured **Lexile® Find a Book**, MetaMetrics’ free book search tool that allows students and families to look for great books to read based on Lexile score and readability. Once they found a book of interest, the handout told families how to search for the book at their local public library to see if it was available.

AOE also created a one-pager featuring MetaMetrics’ free **Quantile® Summer Math Challenge** for students in grades 1-8. With the Summer Math Challenge, children can practice math by taking part in learning activities like math games, videos and worksheets and get real-time feedback on weekly quizzes.

DeCarolis said, “We wanted to be sure that we combined our student-centered learning framework with the PBS television and radio component to offer students a complete learning ‘sandwich’ – an integrated approach, not just a ‘bite’ of learning. We are lucky to have a fantastic team. Emily and Ryan each brought their subject-area expertise and took on the task. My job was to be the ‘sandwich maker’ and connect the three different pieces.”

Ryan Parkman, the state’s math specialist, said, “By going through the 21st Century Learning Centers, we were able to put the kits right in the hands of the users. We delivered them by hand to the districts, all sorted and ready to go. Educators, students and families felt they were really a part of a community effort.”

Leute shared the children’s enthusiasm for the kits, “I delivered to one site and the kids were coming outside and the director asked them if they wanted their bags now and the little kindergartners were so cute and excited.”

She continued, “For us, it was refreshing and a change of pace from the normal day at the AOE. A lot of the people who work at the agency are former teachers and know what a hard job it is in the best of times. Many of us are parents and knew the additional challenges they were facing. It was so energizing.”

The initiative caught the attention of others in Vermont government. Having worked with numerous government agencies, Ted Fisher, Vermont’s state director of communications and legislative affairs, brought an interesting perspective to what he saw. “The AOE has 167 employees, a very small agency. I have never been a part of something like this. This team did an incredible job. From March 2020 on, their attitude was ‘what can we do to make this work.’”

The partnership with PBS brought new possibilities to light for AOE leaders. Leute said, “Working with PBS gave us a way to move forward with our media literacy initiatives. We now think differently about how to use and engage with digital media for parents and teachers and our work with them continues to evolve.”

FIND A BOOK

Support reading over the summer months and find books by reading ability level, personal interests and more: hub.lexile.com/fab.

SUMMER MATH CHALLENGE

Summer Math Challenge is available at hub.lexile.com/smc and can be completed in June and July.*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find additional reading and math tools at the Lexile® & Quantile® Hub: Hub.Lexile.com.

STATE PARTNER SHOWCASE: ALABAMA



Alabama Successfully Implements Lexile & Quantile Measures: Provides Districts With Common Language, Access to Free Resources and Training

Beginning with the spring 2021 administration of the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP), the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) provided MetaMetrics' Lexile and Quantile measures on individual student reports. ALSDE leaders knew prior to the statewide reporting of these measures that they had work ahead of them to ensure they are used effectively to help teachers, students and their families. As Assistant State Superintendent of Education for Student Learning Elisabeth David, Ed.D., said, "While the words Lexile and Quantile are not typically used in everyday conversations, we knew that we would need to provide some consistent communication and support to help make the connection to the use of the resources aligned to these scores."



alabamaachievers.org

- 734,559 students
- 46,942 teachers
- 143 school districts
- 1,474 schools

Continuing, she said, “What immediately captured my attention about reporting Lexile and Quantile scores was the wide variety of resources available to educators, students and families to support student learning through individualized tools based on the student’s Lexile and Quantile score. To make this opportunity become a reality, we needed a thoughtful implementation process to ensure that they were integrated into student learning environments and easily accessible. We also needed to make sure that all students and educators in Alabama had access to these resources, which made the statewide implementation a necessity.”

“When we began to roll out Lexile and Quantile measures, we first trained staff at the state level and then all of our regional support staff, including our regional in-service center directors. This allowed them to immediately begin to share what they had learned with district leadership and building-level teachers through job-embedded supports and training opportunities.”

Alabama has 11 regional in-service centers throughout the state, representing partnerships between K-12, higher education and ALSDE.

Bonnie Short, coordinator of the department’s Alabama Reading Initiative, emphasized the importance of this approach, “With any big rollout, we start with the state department specialists and the regional staff. If we can equip our regional staff who are working directly with building-based people, it helps so much because we can’t reach all schools at one time.”



When we trained the state and regional in-service center staff, we were careful to emphasize that this is not a program. Lexile and Quantile measures are tools that are going to meet needs at many different levels for parents, students and teachers and with the career database on the Lexile and Quantile Hub, they have a direct connection to college and career readiness.”

— Elisabeth David, Ed.D

Assistant State Superintendent of Education for Student Learning

Sandy Ledwell, coordinator of the Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative, said, “While many of our regional staff were familiar with Lexiles, there was a bigger learning curve for Quantiles. The Lexile & Quantile Hub was so valuable for us because it aligns with standards and suggests activities and resources for using the measures. We also see great value in sharing the tools and resources on the Hub with families in the future.”

Alabama’s rollout of **Lexile** and **Quantile** measures wasn’t without challenges. They started their training for regional in-service center staff in March 2020, just as in-person learning abruptly ended. As Ledwell said, “We had planned face-to-face training in schools and districts, but then came the interruption of COVID-19. The good news was that we already had schools using Lexile and Quantile measures from classroom assessments so that leveled the playing field for us in some instances. However, we probably need to think about refresher training now.”

However, overall, the ALSDE team believes that they are off to a great start and that using Lexile and Quantile measures across the state supports their model of providing districts with a common language, free access to high-quality resources and training opportunities that align to their district-specific programs and initiatives.

Short said, “We help teachers ‘unpack’ and teach the Alabama Course of Study standards and we are curriculum agnostic when we do that. We need to help teachers use what the district has provided and diagnose where that curriculum has gaps and find ways to fill those gaps when they find them. Lexile and Quantile measures really support us in that strategy.”

Davis concurred, “When I was a superintendent, we met with every single teacher at one of my schools to discover what was working, what was not working and what they needed to teach our state standards. I knew that if we weren’t putting high quality resources aligned to standards in the hands of teachers, we weren’t doing our jobs. However, as a state department of education, we are hands off with districts when it comes to prescribing curricula, selecting individual vendors, etc. We don’t endorse products and services. But what is so powerful about Lexile and Quantile measures is that it is almost a backwards approach. We provide districts with the scores and they look for products that help make those scores beneficial for supporting teaching and learning for each and every student across the state, no matter what zip code or school district they attend. The resources we provide to teachers, students and families support reading and math readiness, as well teaching and learning aligned to student readiness for college and careers.”

She concluded, “In simple terms, we are providing Alabama educators and families with a comprehensive set of resources to help in the classroom and at home at the click of a button and at no cost to the school, the district, or the family.”

Lexile & Quantile Hub

Access reading and math resources and tools at:

[Hub.Lexile.com](https://hub.lexile.com)

STATE PARTNER SHOWCASE: OKLAHOMA



Oklahoma Leverages Lexile and Quantile Measures to Measure Student Progress, Promote Career Planning Statewide

Summary: To promote assessment and data literacy, Oklahoma State Department of Education leaders recognize the importance of educating state teachers in understanding how Lexile and Quantile scores from state tests can be used to measure progress and support individual academic and career planning from year to year, as well as how to utilize the resources in the [Lexile and Quantile Hub](#).

When the Oklahoma State Department of Education began reporting Lexile and Quantile measures from its annual state student assessments, leaders understood that was just the first step in providing teachers, families and students around the state with valuable data for evaluating student progress in reading and math achievement from one year to the next. In 2019, the Oklahoma assessment team collaborated with MetaMetrics to develop a statewide roadshow with experts on how to



sde.ok.gov

- ➔ 698,696 students
- ➔ 42,551 teachers
- ➔ 509 school districts
- ➔ 1,805 schools

use the measures to link assessment to instruction. Teachers not only learned about how the measures work but also received professional development on using the tools and resources in the Lexile and Quantile Hub, an online platform that includes instructional and planning resources, a career database, book search, text analyzer, academic word lists, math skills database and more. Oklahoma's 42,551 teachers have Premium membership access to the Hub as part of the state's partnership with MetaMetrics.



For Oklahoma, a very important aspect of the rollout of Lexiles and Quantiles was providing teachers, students and families with access to the academic and career planning resources on the Lexile and Quantile Hub. During our roadshow, we had MetaMetrics' experts meet with career planning partners at our state education agencies and in our schools to share the ways that the resources in those tools can be used to help students map a path to their futures."

– Lesa Rohrer
Executive Director of Data Literacy

Rohrer went on to say, "Educators were excited to learn about the Hub's Career Database because of its connection with our Individual Career and Academic Planning Initiative. "

"Not every assessment can do everything," said Cora James, executive director of state assessments, "We are working to help people to understand that." She continued, "Because educators can access Lexile and Quantile scores in relation to other measures (i.e., performance levels, scale scores, and standard level reporting), we want to be sure that teachers understand the purpose of Lexile and Quantile scores and how to use them."

Like other educators around the country emerging from the disruption of the pandemic, one thing that the Oklahoma team has been thinking about is unfinished learning. Rohrer said, "The way that we look at and use those scores will be more representative of what we were doing in 2019 and we will be able to expand on the work that we were starting to do before COVID."

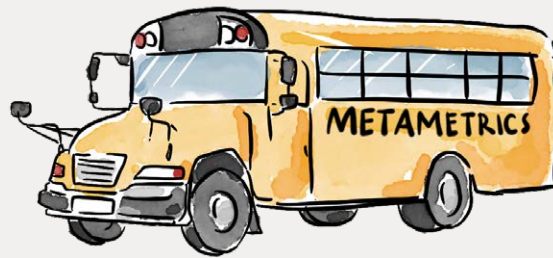
And the team knows there is more work to do. James concluded, "We are ready to provide educators with an update on how to use Lexile and Quantiles with either another roadshow or webinars. It is a continual process and people always have a lot of questions. We have an ongoing commitment to message this properly and reinforce it with our educators."

LEXILE CAREER DATABASE

Identify the reading demands needed for a desired career and use it to inform goal setting:
hub.lexile.com/lexile-career-database.

QUANTILE CAREER DATABASE

Identify the math demands needed for a desired career and use it to inform goal setting:
hub.lexile.com/quantile-career-database.



Beep beep!

Thanks for following along our
Summer 2022 virtual field trip!
metametricsinc.com/fieldtrip