

Scaling Small Group Instruction with GROW

How Visalia Unified School District increased on-grade-level placement for 5th graders by 2.7x in just 12 weeks



Size: 29,000 students | **FRL: 65.3%** | **ELL: 14.4%** | **Focus: 5th grade math**

Like many districts, Visalia Unified School District (VUSD) is facing a growing math achievement gap, compounded by limited resources to support a school-site intervention system.

Solution

To maximize instructional time and expand math support, VUSD integrated GROW into their existing fifth-grade math intervention period. The district paired students who were one or more grade levels behind with a trained GROW tutor in a small 3:1 group setting, while classroom teachers focused on bubble students and advanced learners.

By embedding GROW into daily instruction, VUSD effectively developed a targeted intervention support system, ensuring that ALL fifth-grade students received leveled and engaging tutoring to address their specific needs.

Impact

After completing the 12-week fall GROW program, VUSD saw measurable student success in math. Between the BOY and MOY assessments:

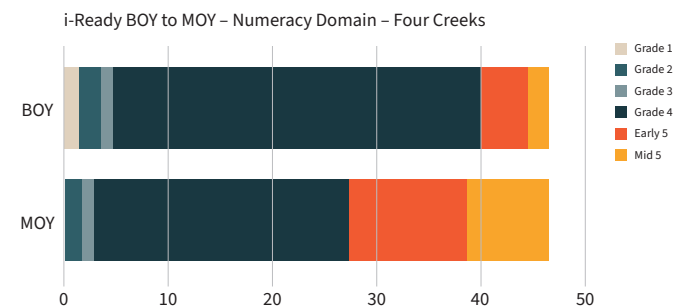
- 38% of students moved up one or more grade level
- 15% of students advanced from below grade level into the expected grade level range

Students engaged with GROW showed a 34% relative improvement from baseline to the final assessment.

Beyond academic growth, the program helped foster math confidence and independence—after completing their engagement with the GROW program, 78% of students reported feeling confident in solving math problems independently and tackling new topics.

A closer look

At VUSD’s Four Creeks Elementary, 15% of students were on grade level for numeracy pre-GROW. After GROW, that number jumped to 40%.



“The i-Ready standards mastery assessments are showing results... decreasing the number of students who are at a beginning level proficiency.”

— **Teacher, VUSD**

“It helped me so much with math with no struggle.”

— **Student, Hurley Elementary**