Student Growth Increases with Summit Learning
Distinctive Schools
Chicago, IL

**AT A GLANCE**

Distinctive Schools, a non-profit School Management Organization, manages four Chicago International Charter Schools (CICS): CICS Bucktown, CICS Irving Park, CICS Prairie, and CICS West Belden:

- 76% Free or Reduced Lunch
- 26% English Learners
- 13% have an Individualized Education Plan

These schools are part of the Chicago Public Schools District, which serves 370,000 students across the city.

**SCHOOL GOALS**

Distinctive Schools teachers and staff were looking for a way to help students see not only year-to-year growth, but also sustained growth on state assessments throughout their entire education. They also wanted to help students develop lifelong Habits of Success, and, as a result, sought out personalized learning as a way to build these skills.

**IMPACT**

Since implementing Summit Learning, 6th-8th grade students across all four campuses have shown significant growth in both math and reading. Students showed **more growth in 2017 on NWEA MAP** than middle school students the previous year. The percentage of students at or above the 50th percentile also increased by seven points in math and six points in reading in 2017 compared to 2016.
IMPLEMENTATION JOURNEY

After researching different personalized learning options, leaders at Distinctive Schools chose Summit Learning because of its focus on helping students take ownership of their goals, as well as the its focus on Real-World Projects and 1:1 Mentorship. Faculty also saw value in receiving real-time assessment of student performance and growth via the Summit Learning Platform, allowing teachers, parents, and students to make informed decisions and set realistic objectives for each student.

In 2016, Distinctive Schools implemented Summit Learning across its campuses. Teachers embraced their roles as mentors and used the Platform to connect with each student. “By using technology some of the time,” says Anthony Claypool, Distinctive School’s Director of Curricular Programs & Data, “we have the ability to get our teachers thinking about one individual kid and what they need.” CICS teachers also have ample opportunity for personalized professional development.

In 2017-18, Distinctive Schools expanded the use of Summit Learning to new grades. Today, 780 students participate in the Summit Learning Program. Distinctive Schools’ teachers’ unified commitment to implementing all three pillars of Summit Learning enables them to meet the unique needs of their classrooms, while ongoing collaboration and communication continue to be the keys to success for satisfied students, teachers, and parents.

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“Teachers are seeing kids become the owners of their own learning. They’re seeing it both in the test results but also who their students are as people.”

CONNIE SCALZETTI
Instructional Coach, CICS West Belden

Distinctive Schools Summit Learning Growth
2016-2017

2016
675
Students
Grade Levels: 3
# of Teachers: 35

2017
780
Students
Grade Levels: 5
# of Teachers: 45

SummitLearning.org