



## Adams County School District 50, Westminster, CO: “Push to Excel, Prepare to Succeed” with Scantron Assessment Solutions and Services

Schools in Adams County experience significant improvement in state- and federally mandated growth measures using a competency-based instructional overhaul, supported by assessment tools and consulting from Scantron®.

Adams County School District 50 (Adams 50) in Colorado serves 10,069 students in 21 pre-, elementary, middle, high, and charter schools.

- Primarily Hispanic student population (73%)
- 41% English Language Learners
- 81% Free/Reduced Price Lunch participation

Adams 50 also supports its own scholarship foundation, with more than 20 scholarship opportunities available.

### Yesterday..

Adams 50 spent years dealing with changing student demographics, unacceptable achievement scores, and declining enrollment. In 2007, the Colorado Department of Education (DOE) placed the district on “Academic Watch.” The district knew they had to take bold action, and proposed a dramatic change: switch from a traditional educational model to a competency-based model that included a significant shift in assessment practices.

Before this strategic change, committees developed assessments using a lengthy process that could no longer be accommodated within the accelerated changes they needed to make.

Enter Scantron Assessment Solutions and Services.

### The Journey..

In 2008–2009, Adams piloted a daring program: switch one elementary school and selected classes throughout the district to competency-based instruction and assessment.

The program was fine-tuned, then rolled out across the district’s elementary and middle schools in 2009–2010. High schools were phased into the program beginning in 2010–2011.

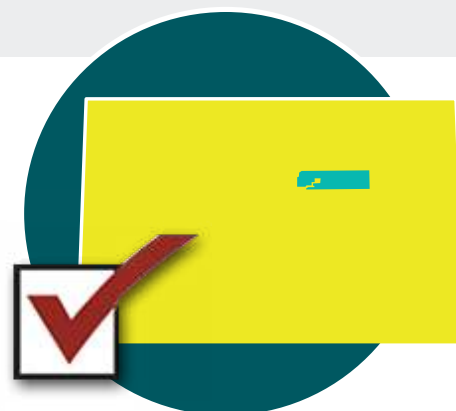
The results?

- In the summer of 2012, the Colorado DOE promoted Adams 50 from “Turnaround” status to “Priority Improvement”—and now more than 50% of its elementary schools are ranked as “Performance.”
- In 2012, Colorado’s state proficiency exam (TCAP) identified that 50% of Adams 50 third graders tested at Proficient or Advanced, compared to 39% in 2011—an 11-point increase in proficiency.
- Students have begun to see themselves as being at the center of—and active participants in—their own education.

Throughout this challenging long-term change, Scantron has provided tools, content development, and implementation support.

**“Scantron has provided the tools needed to validate student learning and support teacher decisions to move students to the next Performance Level when they are ready. Our Competency Based System (CBS) requires multiple data points over time that accurately demonstrate past performance and predict future success.”**

**Dr. Oliver Grenham,**  
*Chief Education Officer*





## Today...

“Scantron has helped us pinpoint (along with other data) the level in which a student is functioning,” says Karen Audett, English Language Development Assistant.

### **Computer-Adaptive Growth Tests**

Scantron’s computer-adaptive test delivers a valid and reliable, nationally normed computer-adaptive assessment for literacy, math, and science. Three times a year, educators administer the test to diagnose student strengths and weaknesses and place students into appropriate learner-based classrooms. This assessment also helps educators compare performance over time and even predict performance on state assessments.

### **Fixed-Form, On-Grade Tests**

Scantron’s fixed-form on-grade test provides a mechanism where schools can create Measurement Topic Assessments (MTAs) to be administered online, on paper, or both. Results are available immediately, and reports provide the data educators need to improve student achievement.

### **Content and Research Services**

Scantron’s Content and Research Services group works extensively with Adams 50’s Assessment Office to develop and enhance assessment items and create MTAs and Performance Level Assessments.

### **Project Management and Content Services**

Scantron’s Client Project Management group provides a dedicated resource who delivers training, helps with troubleshooting, publishes and schedules assessments, and much more. This resource ensures

the Director of Assessment and all district staff receive timely responses to questions and issues that arise.

## Tomorrow...

Based on the measurable success of the program, the Adams 50 school board voted unanimously in 2010 to continue implementing competency-based education for their students.

Scantron will be by their side, helping make it happen by:

- Providing normed diagnostic assessment tools that help them identify how their students measure up to students across the nation.
- Delivering formative and summative assessment tools that help them measure students effectively and *use* their results, not just collect them.
- Creating new and refreshed content in Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and other subjects for MTAs.
- Developing additional assessment vehicles such as tests to mimic what students will encounter as Colorado transitions to using Partnership for Assessment of Readiness of College and Careers (PARCC) state-wide assessments.
- Managing projects with a dedicated CPM resource to ensure Adams 50 continues to get the most out of its Scantron solution.

According to Martha Maestas, Elementary Librarian, “Scantron has helped our schools determine the specific needs for our students individually and showed us how to promote success in the future.”



**INFORM INSTRUCTION  
TO IMPACT STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT TODAY!**

For a free consultation to meet your academic goals, call **800.722.6876** or visit us at **[www.scantron.com/k12](http://www.scantron.com/k12)** to learn more.

## About Us

Scantron® provides a comprehensive set of solutions that help improve student outcomes in K-12 education. We offer software and services to meet the needs of customers’ assessment programs regardless of where they are on the technology spectrum—pure paper, pure online, or anywhere in between.

