# DOINGWHATW⟶RKS

## Carrying Out the Vision

Shotwell Middle School, Texas • December 2009

Topic: Using Student Achievement Data to Support
  Instructional Decision Making
Practice: Vision for Data Use

## Highlights

- The vision for data use at Shotwell Middle School is driven by ensuring alignment between the school's curriculum and the district and state standards so that students can achieve success.
- Staff at Shotwell participate in group data sessions during which particular data are targeted and broken down into objectives and student subgroups. Next, teachers talk to students to gain further insight into what is happening in the areas of concern. Then they analyze all of the data and develop a strategic plan for improving student performance in that area.
- The underlying purpose of data analysis at Shotwell is meeting the needs of the students, and the data tell the teachers what they need to do in order for their students to be successful.

## About the Site

**Shotwell Middle School**
**Houston, TX**

**Demographics**

61% Hispanic

32% Black

 4% Asian

 2% White

78% Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

At Shotwell Middle School, the entire school staff uses data regularly for collaboration and instruction. Additionally, students learn to monitor their progress and set learning goals accordingly. A coordinated set of actions guides the use of data:

- Establish a clear vision for using data to support instructional decision making
- Provide support through skills specialists, professional development, and a testing coordinator
- Use common planning time to analyze data
- Assess the progress of each subgroup through the subgroup master system

## Full Transcript

My name is Wanda Walker, and I am the principal at Shotwell Middle School, which is located in the Aldine Independent School District, in Houston, Texas.

The vision and the purpose for using data on my campus is to make sure that we stay abreast of the alignment that we have put in place where we have aligned our curriculum, our instructional program to what the district has identified, and that's mainly making sure that we meet the state standards. So when you look at data, we are making sure that we are able to identify the different types of data and know the different types of data that we can look at to help us get to where we need to be to make sure that our students are successful. In doing that, we will have group sessions; we can have group sessions where we specifically target particular data. And I can go back as far as 2005 and talk about our math scores, where our math scores were hideous, with 47% of our kids passing the state standard test. What we did was, after looking at that data, we were able to break down the student groups, break it down by objectives, making sure that we look at certain problems that most of the kids missed and talking with the kids, having student talks with the kids so they could tell us what happened when they got to that particular problem. We took all of this data and we analyzed all of that, and we developed a plan, okay this is going to be our strategic plan for improving in this particular area.

The vision is carried out because it is communicated on a regular basis that we have got to meet the needs of these students, we have got to make sure that our students are successful. We have the data right here identifying what it is we need to do as educators in order for our students to be successful in all of our core areas. With this vision in mind for the students at Shotwell, they will become lifelong learners.