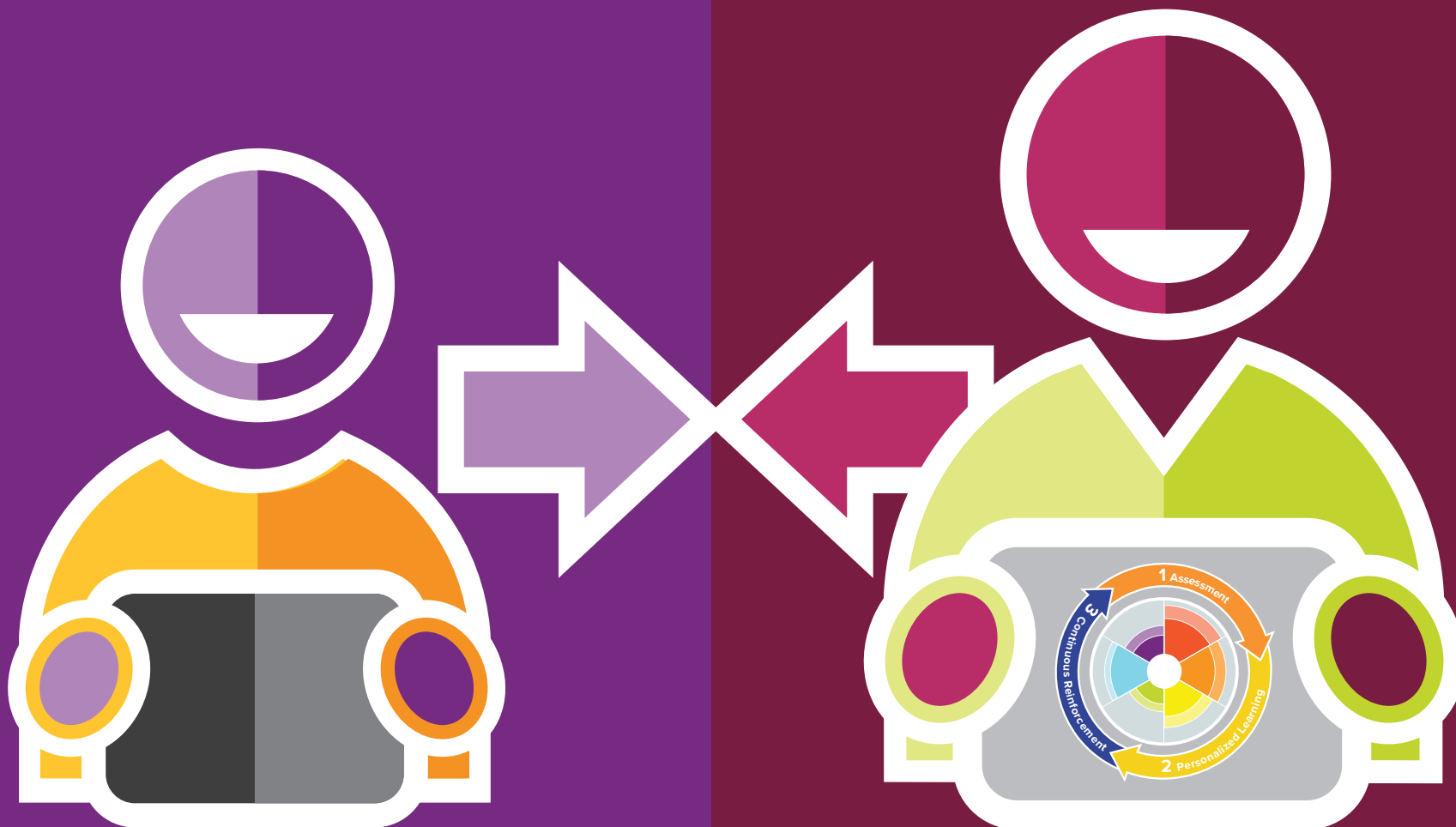


Honey Creek Middle School
in Indiana took their math test
scores to a whole new level.

ALEKS, McGraw Hill's adaptive
learning program for grades
3-12, made it easy (and fun).





Meet Avery C.

Avery now attends Terre Haute South High School in Terre Haute, Indiana. An outgoing and dedicated student-athlete, she plays basketball and golf at her school and aspires to have a career in the medical field.

Her Challenge

During her 7th grade year at Honey Creek Middle School in Terre Haute, Avery found herself struggling in math class. She was frustrated that, despite her hard work, she had scored P- (Approaching Proficiency) on her state math test in the spring of 2021.

“Being a great student as well as a great athlete is important to me,” Avery said in a recent interview. “There’s an expectation for the athletes in our school to keep their grades up, and I want to live up to that.”

“With ALEKS, I discovered that math can actually be fun. Mr. Downs made it fun, and he made it easy for us to learn by motivating us to finish our topics.”

Avery C.
Terre Haute South High School

Meet Tim Downs

Tim Downs is an 8th grade math teacher at Honey Creek Middle School. His students know him as an enthusiastic, engaging teacher who thrives on fostering interactive learning and friendly competition in his classes.

Tim told us that he likes taking a non-traditional approach to give his students a boost and keep them motivated, and a big reason for that is because he took a non-traditional route to teaching. Before embarking on his teaching career in 2018, he was in global operations for a Tier 1 automotive supplier.

“I like a little bit of competition in the classroom—turning something into a fun contest where students can earn a reward like a Starbucks drink,” Tim said. “This not only helps them see how they stack up against their peers, it also encourages them to inspire each other to keep getting better.”

The Action Plan

Leverage the power of learning software to accelerate math achievement

Tim began using *ALEKS*—an adaptive and personalized online learning platform—after his assistant principal recommended it as a way to supplement instruction during Covid. He noted that the benefits he saw from using this innovative math learning software were impressive, especially during the second half of the school year when he focuses intently on state standards.

“I really like the fact that I can tailor ALEKS topic assignments to the Indiana standards. And I like that it’s self-paced and provides immediate feedback, so I can already tell which topics students aren’t getting based on how long they’ve been working on them before submitting. I really don’t know of any other application that can get me that information so quickly.”

Tim Downs
8th Grade Math Teacher
Honey Creek Middle School



The Results

Avery's state test scores jump from P- to P+

During her 8th grade year, Avery worked diligently in *ALEKS* to fill in learning gaps and build fluency. And her hard work and dedication certainly paid off. In the spring of 2022, she took the Indiana ILEARN assessment and went from a P- (Approaching Proficiency) to a score of P+ (Above Proficiency)—**jumping two levels from the previous year.**

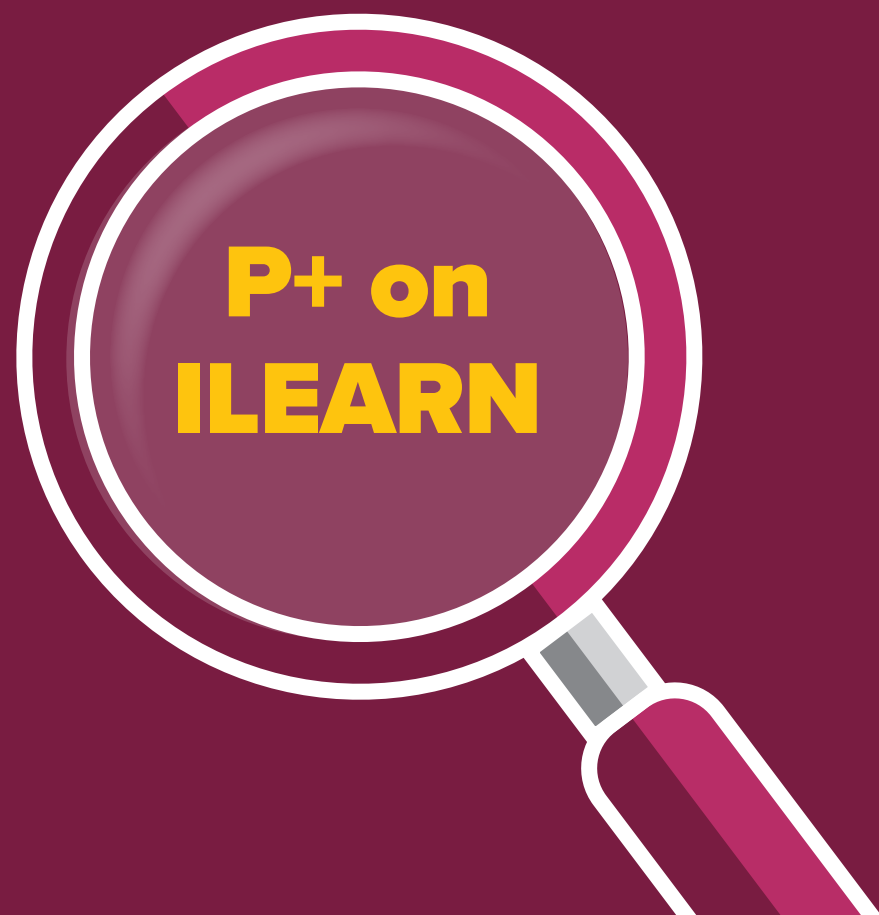


"I was shocked when I got my scores. I learned so much in 8th grade, from both Mr. Downs and ALEKS, that I went up two levels in my score. Our assistant principal even called me into his office to personally congratulate me."

Avery C.
Terre Haute South High School

Tim sees class-wide improvements in test scores

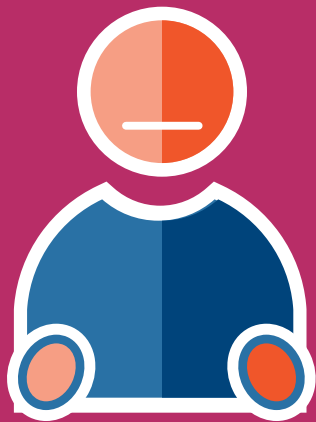
After noticing a correlation between his students' progress in *ALEKS* and their standardized test scores, Tim began collecting data and was extremely pleased with his findings. In addition to Avery, many of his other students also achieved a P (At Proficiency) or P+ (Above Proficiency) on the ILEARN assessment after using *ALEKS*.



The Data

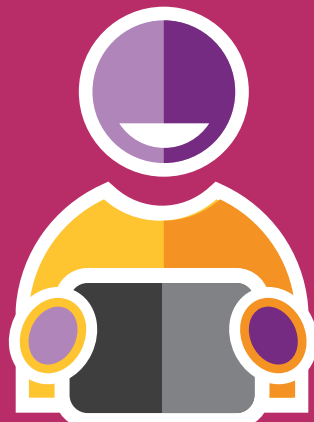
After using *ALEKS* during the 2021 - 2022 school year, Tim Downs' 8th graders achieved proficiency nearly **3x** their own rate from the prior year.

**As assessed by Indiana ILEARN*



2021

11 students
passed
the ILEARN
assessment

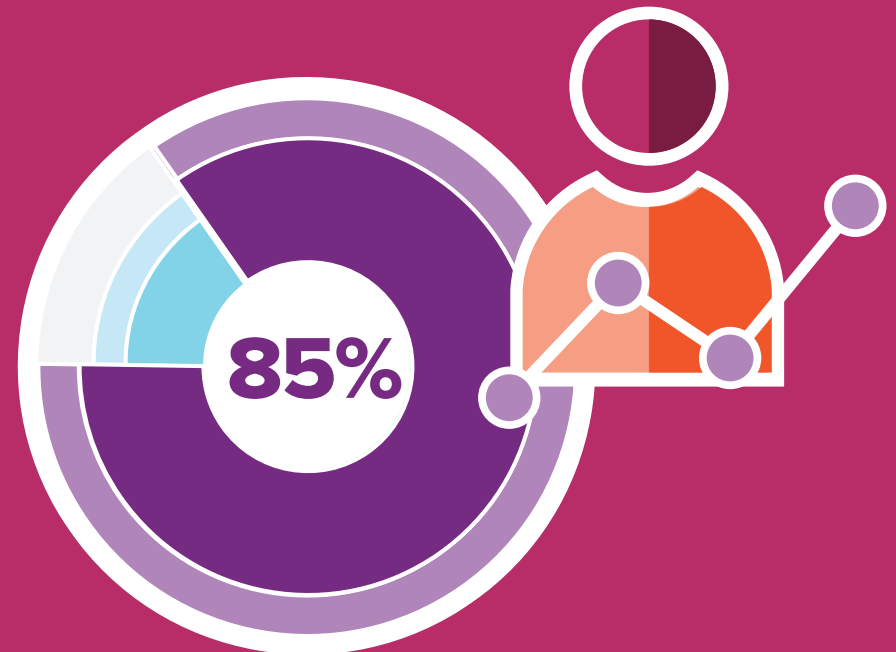


2022

32 students
passed
the ILEARN
assessment
(from the same population)

Students who completed at least **85%** of math topics in their *ALEKS* Pie:

- More than **doubled their own proficiency rate** from the previous year
- Demonstrated a **proficiency rate 2.6x greater** than their district peers



Why ALEKS Works

Promotes high school algebra readiness

In fact, 26 out of 30 of Tim Downs' students who passed their 8th grade ILEARN went on to earn an A in Algebra 1 during their first quarter of freshman year.

"What we're learning now is basically a harder review of what we did in 8th grade," Avery said. "Now I'm finishing problems much more quickly and I enjoy math so much more."

Fosters self-paced practice and purposeful repetition

In their personalized learning paths, Tim's students practiced topics at their just-right level and tracked their progress through the ALEKS Pie that filled in as they learned. He also created assignments to give students additional practice in the day's lesson or standard.

"I have some students who will keep working on an assignment until they get 100%," Tim said. "And I could even set up extra practice assignments based on state standards, and they had unlimited attempts to get those right too."



"What we're learning now [in Algebra] is basically a harder review of what we did in 8th grade. Now I'm finishing problems much more quickly and I enjoy math so much more."

Avery C.
Terre Haute South High School

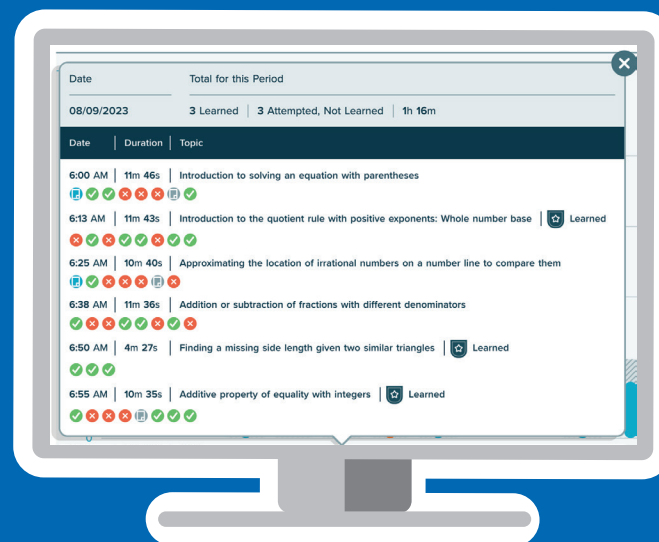
26 out of 30

Tim Downs' students who passed the ILEARN assessment in 8th grade at Honey Creek earned an A in their first quarter of Algebra 1

Provides immediate feedback

Through real-time *ALEKS* reports, teachers can get progress alerts and quickly identify the topics that are taking the most time or attempts for students. And because students receive instant feedback, they can correct issues right away and track their learning progress.

“I think the immediate feedback is the single most valuable aspect of *ALEKS*,” Tim said “It makes it so easy to know exactly what your students understand and what they don’t. In that way, it’s much like the dashboard in a manufacturing operation—which quickly tells you everything about delivery performance, quality performance, cost and more. I think that’s just incredible.”



Supports engaging teaching practices that make math fun for students

“I like learning to be interactive and visible—seeing students working together at the whiteboard or in groups, solving equations or drawing graphs, and then using trackers that help them know how they’re doing,” Tim said. “I teach from a tablet and I will sometimes hand it to a student to teach to their classmates, and I often tie concepts into real-world stories and experiences. *ALEKS* is the perfect complement to all of this.”