CASE STUDY

Guyana introduces a national data portal with GradeMaker

Data is a vital tool for focusing the school improvement effort. Working with GradeMaker, the Ministry for Education in Guyana has introduced a national data portal, bringing new insight to school leaders, regional officials and national planners.

Click to see analysis for any subject

Key subject indicators

Drill down to see progress scores

Trends in gender performance

A system to support national policy

Guyana has always been recognised for its sharp focus on educational improvement. In November 2016 the Ministry began working with GradeMaker to introduce a national data portal to help better target the school improvement effort. A particular areas of focus was to help develop the inland regions (a national priority), and build strength in STEM.

Builds upon a rich set of data

A large bank of student results data (from tests at Grades 4,6,9 and 11) was loaded into the portal, with additional information about schools. There was no unique pupil identifier, so to make the data more usable, the data was linked together using 'fuzzy matching' technology, beginning with the Primary school results. The result was a highly searchable, rich data resource.

Delivers new insights into education

A suite of interactive reports was created for each stakeholder group – schools, regions and ministry officials. These have yielded a new insights into the education system in many key areas:

- Primary and Secondary attainment reports, including trends over 3 years.

- STEM performance (for all levels).

- 'Key Measure' reports to reflect national policy.
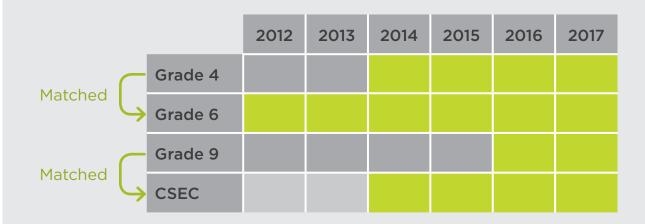
- 'Topic' reports (for Grade 6)

Users access reports relevant to them across the web, or where bandwidth is lacking by personalised pdfs.

KEY FACTS

No. of schools in Guyana

670

No. of Regions

10

No. of exam grades included in the portal

4

Figure 1.
By matching data, the portal reveals the rate of individual pupil progress for the first time.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Grade 4			◼	◼	◼	◼
Grade 6	◼	◼	◼	◼	◼	◼
Grade 9					◼	◼
CSEC			◼	◼	◼	◼

Matched (Grade 4 → Grade 6)

Matched (Grade 9 → CSEC)

The first ever progress reports

A major innovation was the introduction of Guyana's first ever 'progress reports', comparing students' actual results to their predicted attainment at the end of Primary school. These reports are available for each pupil, school, and across all 10 regions.

Similar progress reports for Secondary schools will be delivered in 2018.

Progress reports are a transformational tool in school evaluation. By stripping out prior attainment, they reveal the contribution a school makes to their students' success. The reports show that traditional attainment measures often hide the true story of a schools' performance.

Embedding data in daily life

Ultimately, the key objective of the project for the Ministry is to embed data usage into regular practice, to empower users, improve planning and increase accountability.

An important project strand has been planning how to engage users and build data-based decision making into practice. To do this GradeMaker and its partners supported the Ministry in training users from across the country, and in planning how to use data effectively in the annual school planning cycle.

Next steps

In 2018 the Ministry plan to roll the portal out nationally to all schools. After each exam session, more data will be loaded to the system, and the range of reports available will continue to expand.

> "A school that has the capacity to examine all that it does critically in the light of genuine evidence – including data on pupil performance – and set targets for its own development, will be an improving school

Professor Sir Michael Barber

Former Chief Adviser on Education Standards at Department of Education, UK

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