



"By aligning curriculum, instruction and assessment, the Vantage customization makes the SPMS an increasingly valuable tool for meeting the educational needs of all our students."

- Kris Kaase, Associate State Superintendent,
Office of Academic Education, MS

Mississippi Student Progress Monitoring System® (SPMS) Overview

The Challenge

Assess and Monitor the Progress of Mississippi Students in Core Academic Areas

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) wanted to develop an online statewide program that would allow teachers to assess student performance in math, reading/language arts, science, social studies and writing and receive immediate results that could be used to drive instruction. The MDE envisioned a system that would provide online reports at multiple levels to track student performance, allow administrators to create their own tests and/or content, permit both paper and pencil and online test delivery modes, and allow districts to create benchmark assessments. The MDE also wanted the ability to import external scores from high-stakes statewide assessments so administrators would have a comprehensive overview of student ability level at the individual, class, building, district and state levels.

The Solution

The Mississippi Student Progress Monitoring System®

The MDE engaged Vantage Learning to provide a customized version of the Student Progress Monitoring System® (SPMS) that is aligned to the Mississippi Curriculum Framework Competencies and Objectives

for grades 1-12. Mississippi school administrators can use either the extensive item bank within SPMS or create their own items to develop customized benchmark assessments for their district in order to gain valuable information on student achievement in key academic areas, while teachers can construct either online or paper homework assignments, quizzes or tests to measure student progress. Audio items in math and reading/language arts are available for younger students to assist in skill assessment.

Flexible test delivery options allow districts to use the method that best matches their technological infrastructure; assessments can be delivered over the Internet or via paper tests with answer sheets that can be scanned and the data uploaded into the SPMS database for scoring that is almost as fast as online testing. Powerful reporting tools helps educators track, monitor, and disaggregate data by various demographic categories at the class, school, and district levels, allowing teachers and administrators to learn at a glance whether their students are mastering key objectives. In addition, educators can compare student performance to high-stakes test scores and use this data to better prepare their students for upcoming statewide assessment.

The Challenge

Assess and Monitor the Progress of Mississippi Students in Core Academic Areas

The Solution

The Mississippi Student Progress Monitoring System®

The Result

The Ability to Measure Student Progress over Time and Conduct Targeted Intervention Strategies



To enhance educators' use of SPMS, Vantage Learning offers a comprehensive professional development program designed to effectively implement this powerful tool and integrate its use into the curriculum. The program ranges from workshops that introduce teachers and administrators to the basics of getting started to a series of comprehensive sessions that build connections between curriculum, assessment, instruction and SPMS.

The Result **The Ability to Measure Student Progress over Time and Conduct Targeted Intervention Strategies**

Since the Mississippi SPMS became operational in 2004, over two-thirds of the districts throughout the state have

used the program. This translates to more than 270,000 students using SPMS.

The immediate feedback on student performance supplies educators with the data they need to proactively identify student skill levels and provide timely instructional intervention, as well as valuable information on student performance over time. Teachers can use the immediate feedback on student ability to tailor instruction to students' needs, whether class-wide, for small groups or for individuals. As one instructor has noted, "I go in and choose the objectives I have taught and the kids take a test on it. It lets me know if the kids have mastered these skills, if I need to re-teach or if they are ready to move on."

Getting Started

- Visit www.ms-spms.com for more information
- Attend a regularly scheduled training academy about the Mississippi SPMS; for more information about professional development offerings for the Mississippi SPMS, please visit www.vantagelearning.com/professionalServices/spms.html

About Vantage Learning

Delivering over 193 million test transactions last year, Vantage Learning is the world's leading provider of online assessment and reporting, automated essay scoring, and instructional writing tools and technology. Recognized as the gold standard for scoring quality, consistency, reliability, and scalability, Vantage Learning's award-winning education tools meet the needs of school and district administrators, teachers, students, parents, businesses and government agencies.

The Vantage Learning Platform™ (VLP) is designed as a secure, functionally-rich, flexible and cost-effective testing platform for those that need a comprehensive Internet-based test authoring, delivery, scoring, and reporting platform. VLP is used for summative, formative and benchmark assessment systems as well as for test preparation. Vantage developed IntelliMetric™, the first automated essay scoring technology in the world to reach human level performance and score responses to open-ended and constructed-response questions instantly over the Internet using advanced artificial intelligence technology. IntelliMetric provides the core technology for Vantage Learning's MY Access!® writing instructional program, and is utilized by agencies such as The College Board, ACT, the Graduate Management Admission Council® (GMAC®) and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) for college readiness and admissions testing.

Vantage Learning has won numerous awards ranging from the prestigious CODIE Award for best instructional program to the *Technology and Learning* Award of Excellence to recognition in Eduventures as one of the eight most innovative educational technology companies.