Nacogdoches ISD Conducts Peer District Analysis of Student Performance Data to Guide Curriculum Decisions

THE SITUATION

An established organization since 1903, Nacogdoches Independent School District (NISD) is founded on the principles of educational opportunities, inspiration, and excellence. Serving over 6,000 students across eleven different campuses, the administration team is committed to enhancing curriculum strategies to produce personalized success for every student. For Dr. Jo Lynn Corley, previous Testing Coordinator and current Data Analyst at NISD, it was time consuming and a challenge to gather various data points across different departments and districts to conduct effective student performance analyses.

Organization Type:
K-12 Public School

Enrollment:
6,382

Annual Operating Budget:
$56.76M

Established in 1903, Nacogdoches ISD offers Prekindergarten through 12th grade education to nearly 6,500 students on 11 campuses. They emphasize the importance of every child reaching his or her fullest potential. The mission at Nacogdoches ISD is to educate and inspire everyone to achieve excellence.

THE SOLUTION

In 2017, administrators at NISD attended a presentation to learn how schools across the country are leveraging data analytics tools from Forecast5 to support operational and strategic decision making. Shortly after, the district purchased the forecasting and budgeting tool 5Cast™, and data and peer comparison tool, 5Sight™. Corley dived into 5Sight with her Relationship Manager, Maddie Hidalgo, to begin comparing test scores across a variety of data sets such as enrollment, low income percentage, and ELL students. To execute a deeper comparison analysis, Corley leveraged the peer finder tool in 5Sight to identify and benchmark NISD against like districts. **"The peer finder tool was the key to accessing comparative real-time data that allowed for multiple analyses for our district." Dr. Jo Lynn Corley, Data Analyst**

THE RESULTS

Corley created focused peer groups with all Nacogdoches County schools, as well as schools in the state that have similar demographic information. This provided a range of data, including state assessment results that were cross-referenced to attendance data and selected demographic information. The insights gained allowed Corley to effectively and efficiently present findings to the Curriculum & Instruction Team. Nacogdoches Independent School District continues to leverage data analytics to gain the insights needed to make confident decisions. Beyond this project, Corley has used 5Sight to analyze and benchmark student attendance data and student dropout rates against peers. The ability to seamlessly access data in a timely manner and drill into key areas has been a game changer for this district.