



Power Walkthrough® elevates instruction in Ohio district

The Challenge

Principals in the Olmsted Falls City Schools district in Olmsted Falls, Ohio, know the importance of classroom observations and conduct them on a regular basis—but they weren't seeing any results in the classroom. Data was collected, according to Assistant Superintendent Jim Lloyd, but it wasn't being used to reflect on instructional practice. "We wanted to know how clear the learning targets were for students and how much effective feedback was being provided."

Strategic Solution

McREL's Power Walkthrough was appealing because of the user-friendly technology and its "built-in pedagogy," based on *Classroom Instruction that Works* (CITW) strategies. The district brought in McREL Senior Director of Field Services Howard Pitler to facilitate a Power Walkthrough seminar and almost immediately, they began using the software. To date, they have completed more than 6,000 walkthroughs.

Results

The results were brisk and more sweeping than expected. Using Power Walkthrough has allowed principals to become true instructional leaders and

unite in carrying out the district's non-negotiable goals—clear learning targets and high-quality feedback. Lloyd said, "Now, students know what they should be learning, teachers think more critically in planning lessons, and everyone knows our strengths and what we need to improve."

On a larger level, the use of Power Walkthrough has been like "gathering pieces of a mosaic and putting them together to get the whole picture," Lloyd said. It has helped administrators monitor the district's improvement and professional development plans and is moving the district from one that had "pockets of excellence" to one that is a "community of excellence."

Next Steps

Once a month, teams of administrators and central office staff conduct 4–5 walkthroughs at each of the four buildings in the district, which serves 3,800 students. They've also invited neighboring districts to come and see how it works. Recently, administrators made a presentation to the Ohio Leadership Advisory Council about how Power Walkthrough has enabled Olmsted Falls to reach a new level of implementation in achieving their district goals.

Guaranteeing challenging, engaging, and intentional instruction

Classroom observations are a powerful way that school leaders can guarantee effective instruction is occurring in every classroom in their school or district—but only if they know what to look for and how to use that information.

Focus on proven instructional strategies

McREL's Power Walkthrough software lets principals use hand-held devices (e.g., PDA, Tablet PC, BlackBerry, iPhone) loaded with McREL software to automate and compile the results of classroom observations. The classroom observation “look-fors” embedded in the software include strategies from our best-selling manual, *Classroom Instruction that Works*, as well as student engagement, the use of technology, and other factors that research shows affect student achievement. It also includes several open fields that school leaders can customize for their own use.

Learn how to observe better

Our two-day Power Walkthrough training, held at McREL's offices or at your site, gives an overview of the CITW strategies and shows you how to observe, evaluate, and record your observations on your hand-held device. Learn how to collect, analyze, track, and report the data in ways that make it easy to share observations, help coach teachers to higher levels of performance, and better plan staff development.

Related services

McREL offers a suite of CITW guidebooks and workshops to ensure your students are getting the most effective, research-based instruction possible. Our workshops include these popular offerings:

- Classroom Instruction that Works—Basic and Advanced
- Using Technology with CITW
- CITW with English Language Learners
- CITW in Secondary Science

For more information, visit mcrel.org/powerwalkthrough or mcrel.org/citw, or e-mail info@mcrel.org.

