

Value-Added Analysis in Ohio

Nearly 10 years after value-added analysis began in Tennessee, Battelle for Kids was created as an organization to champion improved student achievement in Ohio. With a focus on school improvement initiatives, Battelle for Kids launched Project SOAR (Schools' Online Achievement Reports) in May 2002 with 41 diverse school districts. Project SOAR was designed to provide Ohio school districts with valuable information to assist their efforts in focusing instruction to improve performance and raise student achievement levels.

At the end of each school year, pilot districts provide their student achievement data to Battelle for Kids. Then, Battelle for Kids sends the data to SAS in Cary, North Carolina for statistical analysis. Once the statistical analysis is complete, the information is presented in easy-to-read charts and graphs, which are available to pilot districts through a password-protected section of the Battelle for Kids Web site. In addition to providing value-added data to SOAR districts, Battelle for Kids also provides districts with tailored professional development. Districts are being taught to use value-added information to reliably measure students' individual progress, identify at-risk students, analyze various educational, instructional and program practices' impact on student achievement, and share information throughout their districts.

Widespread support from SOAR participants, Ohio's teachers' unions, education associations, educators and business and community leaders led to the passage of Ohio House Bill 3 in August 2003 — the legislation that incorporates a value-added progress measure into Ohio's education accountability system. **During the 2007-08 school year, a value-added metric will become an official component of the local report cards issued by the Ohio Department of Education.**

Battelle for Kids and the Ohio Department of Education are leading a comprehensive training program to develop the skills of a cadre of educators who represent the 12 regions across Ohio. These Regional Value-Added Specialists (RVAS) will make a two-year commitment (starting in 2005-06) to learn more about value-added's uses and benefits and how to teach others to use and interpret value-added information. During the second year (2006-07), RVAS will train District Value-Added Specialists (DVAS) to use and interpret value-added information. By the time value-added is part of the state accountability system, approximately 1,400 individuals will be trained to use the information derived from the metric to make data-informed decisions about school improvement and increased student achievement.



Battelle for Kids
Bringing clarity to school improvement

1160 Dublin Road, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 481-3141
(614) 481-8997 fax
www.BattelleforKids.org

Value-Added Analysis in Ohio

Quick Facts

- Project SOAR is the largest value-added pilot program in the United States.
- Ohio has the second largest longitudinal database of student records in the country, including 400,000 students — more than 30 percent of Ohio's students in grades 3-8.
- More than 60 Ohio school districts and 17 states were represented at Battelle for Kids' first national value-added conference in October 2004.
- Battelle for Kids received \$1 million in federal funding to expand its value-added work into New York and Pennsylvania.
- Over the past three years, Battelle for Kids' and Project SOAR's work have been featured in the *Washington Post*, *Education Week*, *School Administrator Magazine*, *The Harvard Education Letter*, *School Board News*, *the Akron Beacon Journal*, *the Columbus Dispatch*, *Ohio Schools Magazine*, and many other national and state publications.

Implementation Timeline

May 2002

- Project SOAR launches with 41 Ohio school districts

August 2003

- SOAR II launches and 22 districts join pilot (total of 63 districts)
- Ohio General Assembly passes House Bill 3

September 2003

- Battelle for Kids launches year-long District Value-Added Specialists (DVAS) Training

August 2004

- SOAR III launches and 15 districts join pilot (total of 78 districts)

August 2005

- SOAR IV launches and 28 districts join pilot (total of 106 districts and 3 charter schools)

2005-06

- Battelle for Kids and Ohio Department of Education train 80 Regional Value-Added Specialists (RVAS)
- All Ohio school districts receive 4th grade reading and math value-added reports. Reports not public.

2006-07

- RVAS train 1,200 DVAS
- All Ohio school districts receive 3rd - 8th grade reading and math value-added reports. Reports not public.

2007-08

- Value-added becomes an official component of Ohio's education accountability system and the local report cards
- All Ohio school districts receive 3rd - 8th grade reading and math value-added reports. Reports are public with the exception of student reports.
- Battelle for Kids offers value-added reports in science and social studies, and in grades not provided by the state



Battelle for Kids
Bringing clarity to school improvement

1160 Dublin Road, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 481-3141
(614) 481-8997 fax
www.BattelleforKids.org