

Data Analysis Tools and Protocols *at* Mastery Charter Schools Shoemaker Campus / Philadelphia, PA



Mastery Charter Schools Shoemaker Campus

Principal: Sharif El-Mekki

School schedule: 8:00am–4:00pm

Early Release: 8:30am–1:30pm (Wed.)

*Additional time compared to
surrounding district: 60 min/day
and 7 days/year*

Student Population

Grades served: 7–12

Number of students: 679

Qualify for free/reduced lunch: 71%

Students Scoring At or Above Proficient on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment in 2010

*(difference compared to surrounding
district)*

ELA: 64% (+10%)

Math: 82% (+41%)

Based in Philadelphia, Mastery Charter Schools are receiving national attention as a model for turning around low-performing public schools. Government leaders, celebrities, and national news outlets have highlighted the impressive results at Mastery schools, including Mastery Charter Schools Shoemaker Campus. Many of the students begin their time at Mastery Shoemaker several grade levels behind in both reading and math. Therefore, Mastery Shoemaker stresses a highly data-driven approach to identifying both student skill levels and the supports needed to get them to grade level and on the path towards college.

Data permeates Mastery Shoemaker's classrooms and hallways. Teachers rely on data each day, and they establish protocols to collect and analyze data throughout the year. "Our teachers are constantly collecting student data," says Daniel Bell, director of operations at Mastery Shoemaker. At the end of each academic period, students fill out "exit tickets"—a short list of

questions that gives teachers a sense of what students learned during class. In some Mastery Shoemaker classrooms, teachers incorporate handheld devices to track student responses and determine whether students have learned certain concepts. Teachers at Mastery schools also create and administer weekly assessments to gauge student progress. Bell summarizes, "The amount of time we analyze and utilize data is hard to believe. We have benchmarks, predictor tests, end of year tests, and weekly assessments that drive our instruction. Teachers spend at least two hours each week looking at data. For many of our teachers, it's even more than that."

Along with such regular weekly assessments, Mastery Shoemaker and other network schools also administer benchmark assessments, created by the Mastery network, every six weeks. After each benchmark assessment, all Mastery schools hold "Data Days," giving every teacher a full day to grade, analyze, and plan around benchmark assessments. To facilitate benchmark analysis, Mastery also uses prior student performance data to predict growth, and then designates each student as "exceeding," "meeting," or "below" expected growth after each assessment. "The teacher reports are a really great way for me to see what trends are emerging in my classroom, what my students are not getting, and which individual students need support from me or a tutor," says Kate Delpriore, an algebra teacher at Mastery Shoemaker. It's a great tool to celebrate success, too. I can show a student their score and tell them that they're exceeding their expected growth."

Mastery schools also administer assessments to predict student performance on Pennsylvania's standardized test and end-of-year testing to determine growth in math and reading. Each day, teachers have one or two planning periods to analyze and use data to inform instruction. "I don't make a decision unless I have data to back it," maintains School Leader Matt Troha. "That's the culture at our school because it makes sense; we trust the data and believe in data strongly. We use it to make every decision."

