

# Pekin Community School District

*Case Study, 2011*



Pekin Elementary is part of a small rural school district of 726 students located in Packwood, Iowa. Each classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard, and teachers have access to two mobile laptop labs and one fixed computer lab.

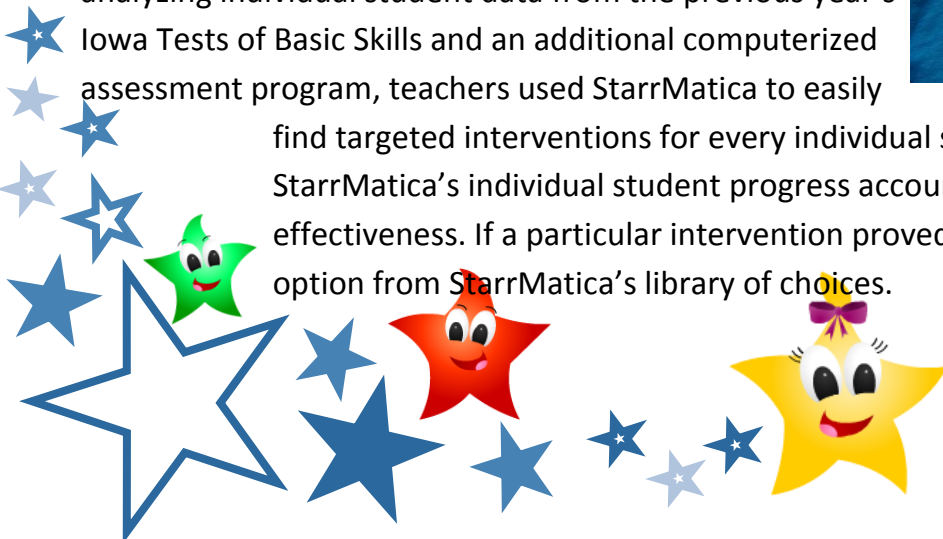
Updating student access to technology and increasing students understanding of technology and its applications is a continuous goal in the district. That goal along with the desire to enhance supplemental materials with technology prompted Pekin's Principal, Jeff Eeling; Superintendent, John Dotson; and a team of teachers to attend a StarrMatica open house in the spring of 2010 in neighboring Fairfield School District. Fairfield had been utilizing StarrMatica's library of content for four years. Pekin educators heard first hand from Fairfield's technology integration specialist, Tina Breen, how StarrMatica helped her district make the most of their technology investments.

Pekin piloted StarrMatica in the spring of 2010 and invested in the library of content in the fall. "I had no reservations whatsoever before investing in StarrMatica. I was sold on it once I saw the capabilities," said Superintendent John Dotson, pioneer of the first 1:1 initiative in Iowa. "We chose StarrMatica because of its user friendliness, the creativity of the content, how the content related to our curriculum and standards and benchmarks, and how the content captured our students' attention."

Pekin elementary teachers began using StarrMatica with their students in the fall of 2010 after in-person professional development training from Emily Starr of StarrMatica. Pekin's primary goal was to use StarrMatica to close the gap between data analysis and intervention for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The teachers used the program in a systematic and consistent way. After analyzing individual student data from the previous year's Iowa Tests of Basic Skills and an additional computerized assessment program, teachers used StarrMatica to easily



find targeted interventions for every individual student weakness. Teachers then used StarrMatica's individual student progress accounts to monitor an intervention's effectiveness. If a particular intervention proved unsuccessful, teachers selected another option from StarrMatica's library of choices.



In spring 2011, Pekin third, fourth, and fifth graders took the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. The tests showed the effectiveness of Pekin’s strategy of data analysis and individualized intervention with StarrMatica.

Pekin students scored well above the state average. The tables below show the percentage of students proficient as measured by Spring 2011 ITBS testing.

Reading		
Grade	Pekin	State
3 <sup>rd</sup>	96.09%	77.32%
4 <sup>th</sup>	97.67%	79.85%
5 <sup>th</sup>	93.84%	79.85%

Math		
Grade	Pekin	State
3 <sup>rd</sup>	94.00%	77.70%
4 <sup>th</sup>	100%	81.34%
5 <sup>th</sup>	95.39%	79.41%

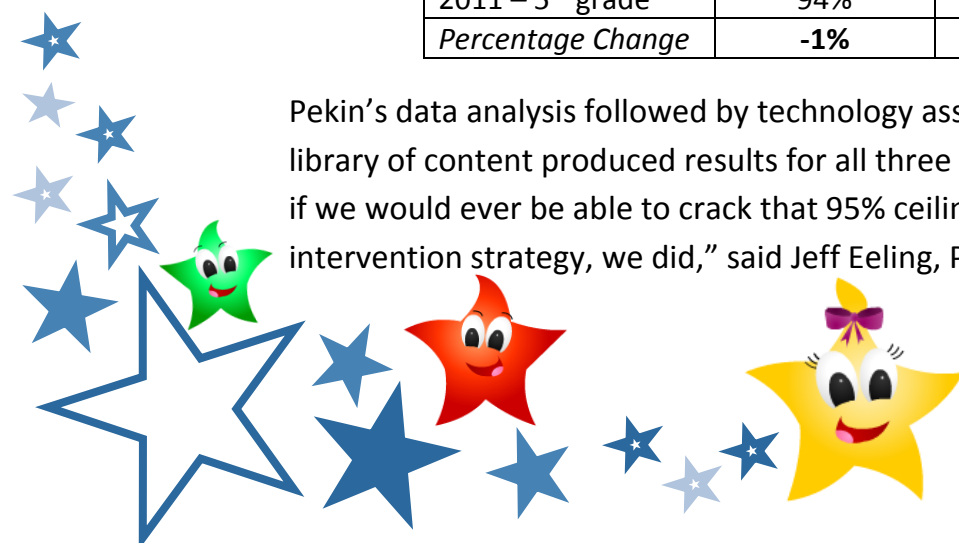
Pekin’s historical test scores comparing the same groups of students from year to year showed growth in every grade level and in nearly every subject—including 100% of fourth graders proficient in math. The tables below show the change in the percentage of students proficient from 2010 to 2011 as measured by ITBS testing.

Third Grade	Reading	Math
2010 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	80%	66%
2011 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	96%	94%
<i>Percentage Change</i>	<b>+16%</b>	<b>+28%</b>

Fourth Grade	Reading	Math
2010 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	95%	93%
2011 – 4 <sup>th</sup> grade	98%	100%
<i>Percentage Change</i>	<b>+3%</b>	<b>+7%</b>

Fifth Grade	Reading	Math
2010 – 4 <sup>th</sup> grade	95%	92%
2011 – 5 <sup>th</sup> grade	94%	95%
<i>Percentage Change</i>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>+3%</b>

Pekin’s data analysis followed by technology assisted interventions utilizing StarrMatica’s library of content produced results for all three participating grade levels. “I wasn’t sure if we would ever be able to crack that 95% ceiling, but this year with our assessment and intervention strategy, we did,” said Jeff Eeling, Pekin Elementary Principal.



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As a secondary benefit, StarrMatica helped kindergarten through sixth grade teachers increase their use of interactive whiteboards for whole class instruction.

“As a teacher who was newer to the technology wave, StarrMatica was an easier way for me to adapt my classroom. It helped me to understand my interactive whiteboard and to use it more effectively in my classroom. Instead of searching for ways to use it, with StarrMatica, I immediately had a way to use my board,” said Sarah Wright, fifth grade teacher.



This year, Pekin continues their use of StarrMatica to meet individual student needs with technology. “StarrMatica has improved teachers teaching skills in the classroom, made learning more fun for kids, and increased our test scores,” said Superintendent Dotson. “The delivery of education has got to change, and through StarrMatica I saw teachers capturing the attentions of their students and delivering curriculum the way students are learning now.”

Visit [www.starmatica.com/pekincasestudy](http://www.starmatica.com/pekincasestudy) to watch videos of Principal Jeff Eeling; Superintendent John Dotson; Fifth Grade Teacher, Sarah Wright; and Third Grade Teacher, Andrea Coble discussing their experiences with StarrMatica.

