

# SMALL SCHOOLS, SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

SUCCESS STORY: Choctaw County School District  
PROGRAMS: TU Coaching for Impact

## PARTICIPANT DETAILS



Choctaw County,  
Mississippi



3  
Schools



6  
Teachers



737  
Total Students

## STATE CHALLENGES

The state of Mississippi has been a leading priority state in the [Why Rural Matters](#) report for the last 10 years. More than 50% of the public school districts are located in rural areas. Unfortunately, resource equity (e.g. per pupil spending, teacher salaries) is a challenge for creating the best possible education in rural schools.

## SCHOOL BACKGROUND

Choctaw County School District is located about thirty minutes outside Starkville, Mississippi. While they have seen school accountability grades grow in the last few years, the pandemic and changing educational landscape brought different challenges for them.

The school system has seen an increase in behavioral issues and gaps in student learning within grades. They have been actively working together as a school district to address these challenges.



*Our biggest challenge is self-management - self-control with students. Some of our students struggle a lot with resolving problems and dealing with anger when it presents itself in a given situation. We have really good students who want to learn and better themselves - they just need that life skill.*



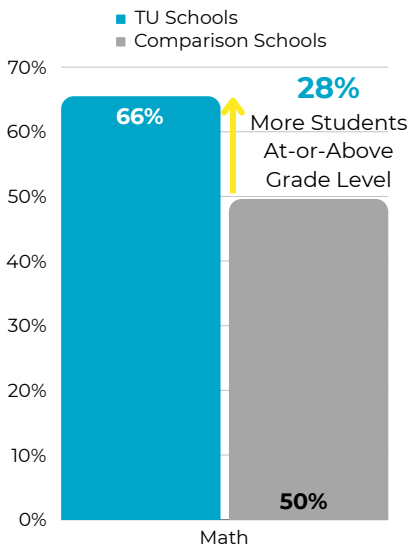
*Academically, we have a lot of differentiation within single grades (from below to above).*



# THE SOLUTION

Six teachers from the three elementary schools in the district participated in the TU Coaching for Impact program. During training, the participating teachers applied strategies in their classrooms immediately and used 1:1 coaching sessions with TU to discuss what worked and adapt what didn't. Now fully trained, teacher leaders are sharing strategies learned through the program with other staff in their building, enhancing the teaching methods of their peers, and strengthening the overall capacity of the school.

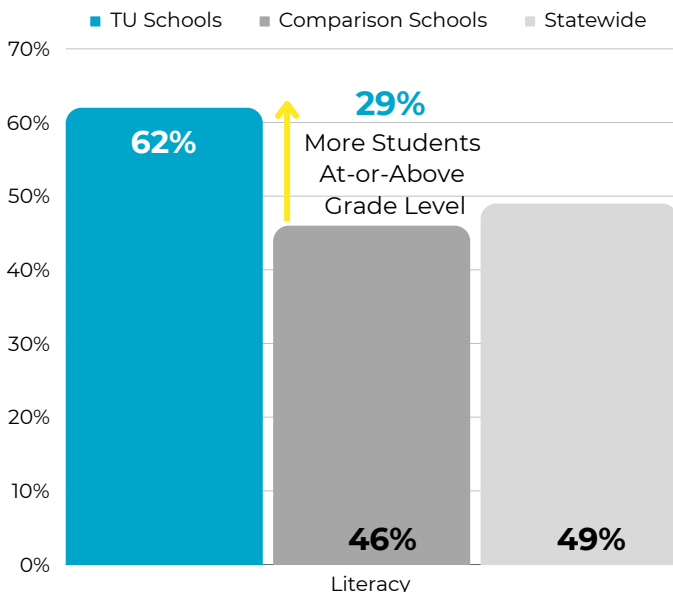
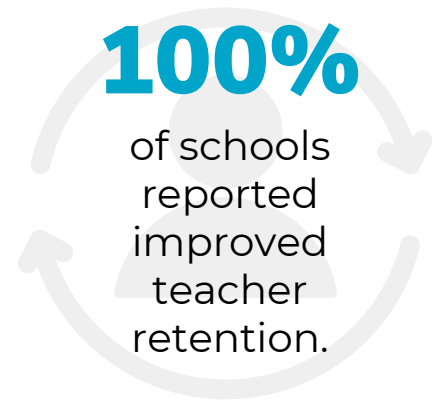
## STUDENT AND TEACHER OUTCOMES



### MATH

TU schools had a 10% increase in the rate of students on grade level growing from 59.6% to 65.5%, outperforming comparison school proficiency in math. Participating TU schools now have 28% more students at or above grade level versus comparison schools.

### TEACHERS



### LITERACY

TU schools outperformed both state and comparison school proficiency rates in literacy, with 61.8% students proficient. That's 29% more students at or above grade level from comparison schools.

