Landing Zone

CASE STUDY

Phalen Leadership Academy's partnership with Landing Zone

Background

Phalen Leadership Academies is a network of tuition-free public schools that help children excel in their academics and grow as well-rounded individuals.

- Founded in 2013
- Grew from 8 to 23 schools in 4 years
- Located across 6 states, serving pre-K to 12th grade.
- Data analytics team created in 2019

Project Objectives

In their efforts to continuously measure academic growth for students, the district has implemented a system to track and analyze data across a range of schools. Initially, this effort started with 8 schools and gradually expanded to include 23. Throughout this process, they encountered limitations in collecting analytics with their disparate assessment systems, which posed challenges for efficient data collection and analysis. To overcome these limitations, the district focused on developing effective automated integration solutions. Their aim was to make the data more accessible and digestible for various data consumers, ensuring that it could be utilized to inform decision-making and ultimately improve educational outcomes.

CHALLENGES

PLA schools have faced challenges related to data management and analysis in the past, including a lack of an efficient data infrastructure and difficulty connecting data from different sources.

PLA utilized several Student Information Systems (SIS) across multiple states. This yielded a large amount of data but also a heavy workload as that data needed to be analyzed manually. It became increasingly difficult and time-consuming to manage as the academy grew. PLA also faced the challenge of not being able to track academic growth for students beyond state assessments. This limited their ability to provide just-in-time insights and support for students who were struggling.

To address these challenges, the district started using two ed-tech tools, NWEA MAP and Edulastic, which measure student academic growth beyond state assessments. However, these tools had limitations in terms of in-tool platform insights and analytics capabilities.

For instance, NWEA MAP offered built-in reports but those reports were not able to provide multi-scale insights related to district/network goals, while Edulastic offered in-depth insights that were not useful for school network leaders (who mostly need summarized insights). Overall, while these tools helped address some of the district's challenges related to measuring academic success, they also had data scrutinization limitations that needed to be addressed.

PRE-LZ

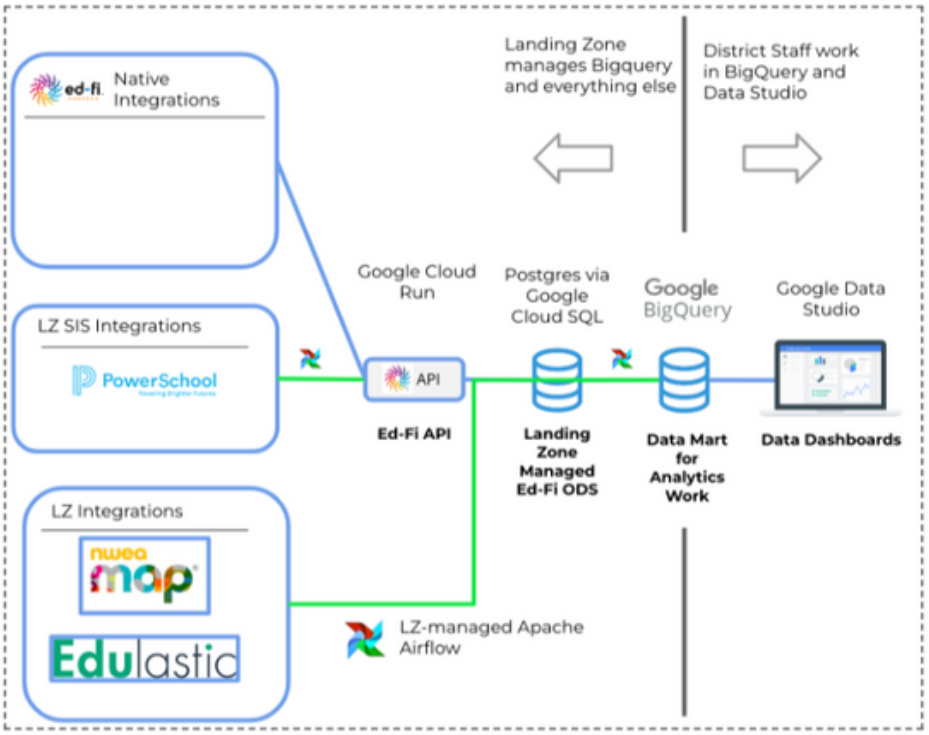
The below actions were performed manually daily to have the most updated data:

- Gathering and transforming data from NWEA & Edulastic to put into a format that could be shared with others
- Organizing student information by creating structured enrollment rosters
- Matching and combining data from different school systems

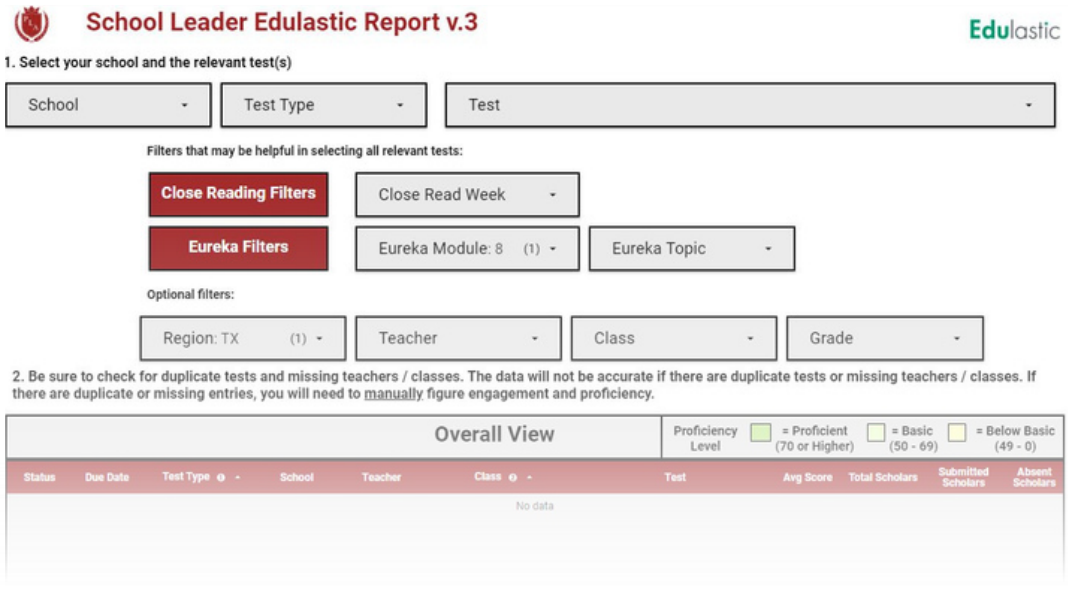
SOLUTIONS

PLA schools faced challenges related to data. In 2019, they decided to partner with Landing Zone (LZ) to overcome their challenges.

LZ provided a seamless connection between the schools' data systems, allowing data to be automatically imported into an interoperable and centrally accessible data warehouse. This means that the schools didn't have to manually transfer data anymore, saving them time and effort.



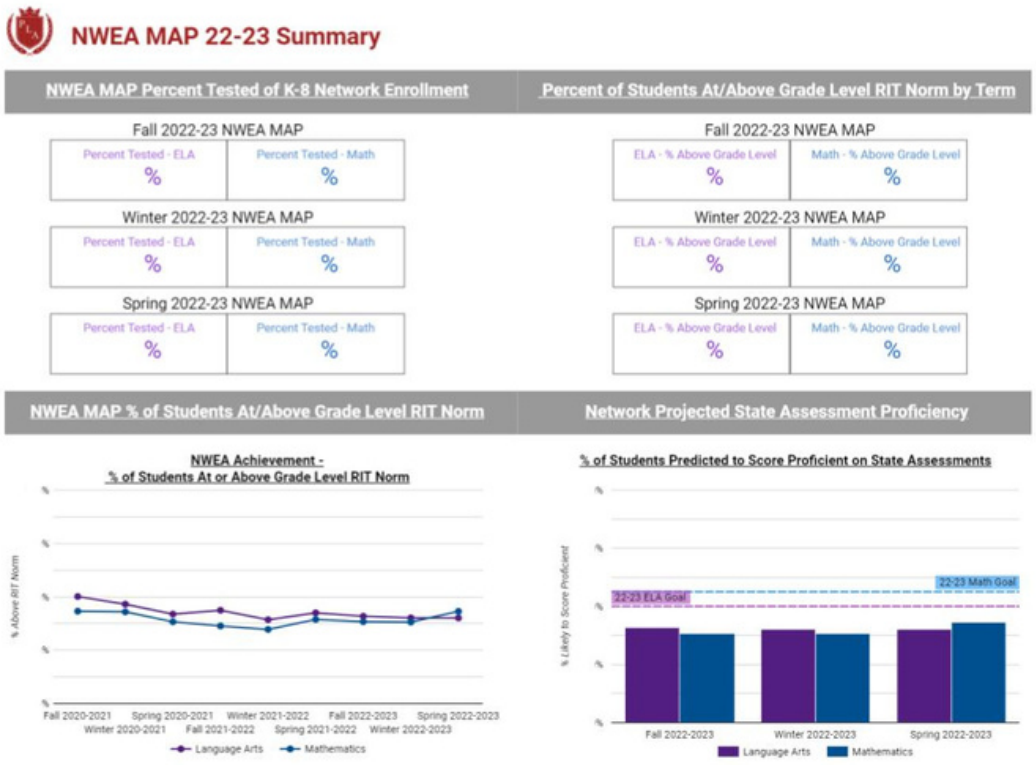
In order to gain valuable insights into student academic growth and track student progress more frequently, the schools integrated NWEA MAP and Edulastic data alongside LZ. With LZ's help, the schools were now able to track student growth measurements at all levels, including NWEA scores, which allowed PLA to share custom reports at all scales (from class, to school, to network/district). Furthermore, LZ facilitated the creation of reports using Edulastic, enabling leaders to measure overall student performance in previous assessments.



SOLUTIONS

These implementations greatly improved data management and analysis for the schools. With real-time data available, they were able to efficiently manage and analyze their data, leading to informed, data-driven decisions that supported the academic growth of their students. Powerful tools allowed them to extract data and create dynamic views that could be easily understood by all stakeholders.

Overall, LZ's support empowered the schools by simplifying data management, providing valuable insights into student performance, and enabling evidence-based decision-making to support student success.



POST-LZ

At this time, LZ is able to act as an extended team for PLA, supporting their data management needs by automating the capture of real-time data and positioning it in a way that is accessible and easy to use. Manual files have been replaced with data in a structured database system and from this data system it became easy and possible to maintain shared dynamic reports that allowed users to collaborate during meetings.

CONVERGE