

The Learning Network[®] began providing professional development services to Kingsport's Andrew Johnson Elementary School in 2002. Our work with this one school has led to increased achievement and the use of our model in six of the district's seven elementary schools.

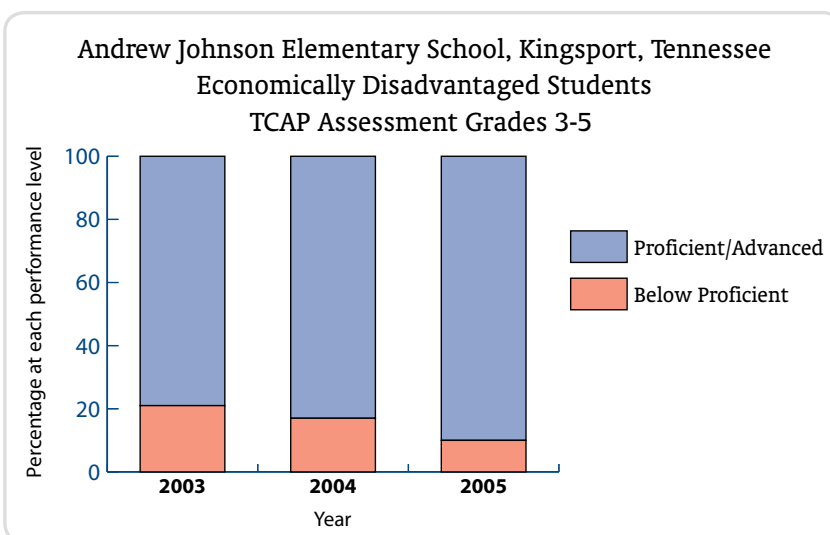
Kingsport is a medium sized city in the mountains of eastern Tennessee. The Kingsport City School District serves more than 6,000 students, about one-third of whom receive free/reduced price lunches. Five of the district's seven elementary schools receive Title I funding, including Andrew Johnson Elementary.

Katie Moeller, The Learning Network staff developer who has been working with the schools since 2002, began implementing **The Learning Network[®]** model by reviewing the school's assessment data with the staff and then developing annual goals and action plans directly linked to the school's improvement plan. Teacher leaders who serve as instructional coaches have been trained within the school, helping to design and implement systematic changes in the school's culture, curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development.

A key aspect of **The Learning Network[®]** model in Kingsport has been the use of on-going data gathering as an assessment and evaluation tool to:

- guide professional development and instructional efforts
- inspire teachers by graphically illustrating successes and accomplishments
- achieve higher levels of accountability for student learning.

In many ways, the original teacher-leaders have become "data" coaches, supporting the school and individual teachers as they examine all sources of data to inform instruction. Lenore Kilgore, principal of Andrew Johnson Elementary, has had the long term commitment and vision to continue this approach, and one of the greatest benefits has been the school's ability to help students overcome the disadvantages of poverty. As shown on the accompanying chart of Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program scores, the number of economically disadvantaged students classified as proficient or advanced has steadily increased from 79 percent to 90 percent over a three-year period, while the number classified as below proficient has been cut in half.



Bottom Line: The Learning Network is helping schools with a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students raise the bar for academic achievement and close the gap between the students and the standards they are expected to meet.

