

Transforming Writing Instruction Leads to 35% Growth

How Two 5th-Grade Teachers Beat the Benchmark with Curipod

**Elementary School in
Southern CA
87% FRPL, 94% Hispanic**

Focus Areas

- Student & teacher confidence
- Real-time actionable feedback
- Closing gaps especially for ELs

From Goals to Growth: A 5th-Grade Success Story

In a school where 87% of students qualify for free and reduced-price lunch and nearly all (94%) are Hispanic, with many English learners, teachers navigate complex challenges every day. And the student outcomes tell a story of resilience.

Instead of focusing on limitations, educators and students leaned into new possibilities. Not only did one group of 5th graders surpass district averages, but they also delivered some of the highest gains in the entire district.

For veteran teacher Ms. M., now in her 25th year, the challenge was personal. A seasoned math teacher, she was also responsible for 5th-grade ELA. Ms. M. and her teaching partner knew that writing and feedback would be central to helping students succeed on the CAASPP—and that traditional methods alone wouldn't be enough.

"I cannot do it physically," Ms. M. explained. "I cannot give immediate feedback to 30 students at once, but with Curipod, it is possible. I wish I had this 20 years ago."

A Breakthrough Year for the 5th-Grade Team

100% of Students Show Growth with Curipod

Ms. M. and her teaching partner integrated Curipod 2–3 times a week for short constructed response (SCR) practice leading up to CAASPP.

They tapped into student choice by encouraging students to write about topics they loved, which kept engagement high. With Curipod's real-time, targeted feedback, students could write, reflect, and revise immediately, strengthening their arguments and evidence on the spot.

By the end of the 2024–25 school year, results from the 5th-grade team stood out across the district.



CAASPP Results (% Meeting or Exceeding)

Same Group of Students
from 4th to 5th grade

2023-24
4th Grade - No Curipod

51%

2024-25
5th grade w/ Curipod

69%

In ELA, the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards on the CAASPP jumped from 50.7% in 4th grade to 68.6% in 5th grade. Even more telling, while other grade levels scored lower on CAASPP than on their district benchmark, these students exceeded it—scoring 66% on the district benchmark and 68% on CAASPP.

Teachers credited one factor above all others: consistent use of Curipod for writing practice and real-time feedback.

The Challenge

For Ms. M., Curipod solved the feedback challenge that had weighed on her for years.

- 1 Specific, actionable guidance:** “It’s super targeted ... the feedback said, ‘Make sure your evidence supports your main idea sentence,’ and we went back and found a better one.”
- 2 Instant confidence-building:** “Some kids just will say, ‘I’m a struggling writer,’ but when you get the instantaneous feedback ... it’s very specific. It builds their confidence.”
- 3 Student breakthroughs:** “I had a student who was not meeting standards in fourth grade and then got a perfect score on state testing in 5th ... it had to be from how they were getting instantaneous feedback.”

Ms. M. sees Curipod not just as a test prep tool but as a foundation for future-ready learning.

“It’s definitely 21st century learning ... moving forward into the rest of their education, technology can be an asset ... it’s not cheating, you use it appropriately and it’s a powerful tool.”

Growth That Speaks for Itself

At this school, the 5th-grade team proved that growth is possible when the right tools meet strong teaching. With Curipod, students gained confidence, sharpened their writing, and exceeded district benchmarks. As Ms. M. puts it: “It’s the most revolutionary tool in my teaching career.”

