



Case Study

CLOVIS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Introduction

Clovis Unified is California's twelfth-largest school district, serving about 43,000 students across 50 campuses. Clovis is a suburb of Fresno in the heart of the Central Valley with a long reputation of educational excellence. Dozens of Clovis schools have been awarded to the esteemed National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, and the district has been named as an honor roll district by the California Business for Excellence in Education Foundation.



In 2015, Clovis Unified began using the SBAC assessment, known as the CAASPP in California. Early on they noticed that listening stood out as an area where the lowest percentage of their students scored above standard.

On average, Clovis students scored lower in listening than in reading, writing, and research.

Improving CAASPP Listening Scores at Clovis North High School

After looking at his SBAC results in 2015, ELA teacher (now District IT Coach) Benton Lewis shared his concerns with his site administrator at Clovis North High School.

“ We needed to find a way to incorporate some sort of listening skills with our students and try to increase these scores.”
— Benton Lewis, District IT Coach, Clovis North High School

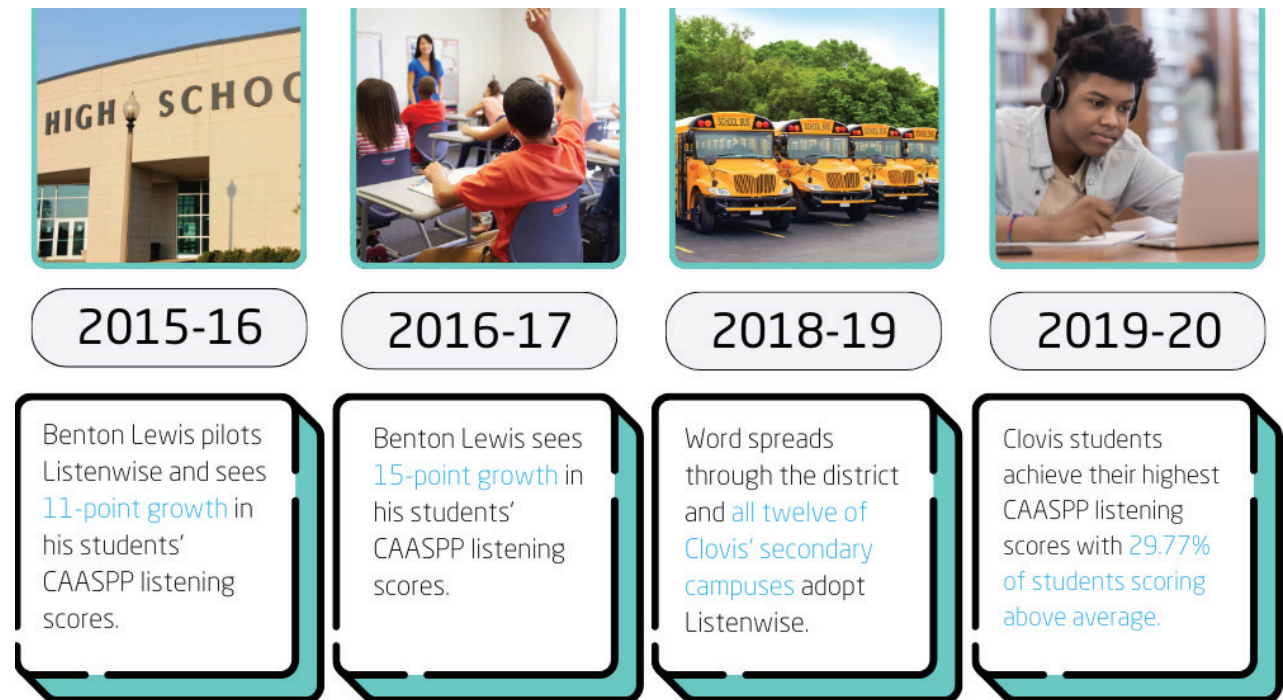
Lewis found Listenwise, which provides authentic podcasts and videos to teach academic content and language together across the curriculum, using listening as a lever for accessing grade-level content.

After Lewis piloted Listenwise in 2015-2016 school year, his students' scores increased by 11 points. “I think just logically speaking, at least part of that is due to Listenwise,” says Lewis. In 2016-2017, Lewis continued to see students make significant strides leading to his students' increasing their scores on the CAASPP listening portion by 15% points.

Growing Impact in Clovis Unified

Word about Clovis North High School's improved CAASPP results started to spread throughout the district. Over the ensuing years, more schools began to partner with Listenwise.

In 2018, all twelve of Clovis' secondary campuses came on board. In 2019 Clovis students achieved their highest CAASPP listening scores ever with 29.77% of students scoring above standard.



When the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020 and schools transitioned online, teachers were in need of high-quality digital resources to support students. Listenwise made the decision to open its resources for free to support teachers for the remainder of the 2020 school year.

Clovis' district adoption spread further, including to elementary teachers. Listenwise became a staple of most teachers' teaching routines across subject areas and grade levels. Teachers appreciated how Listenwise stories engaged students in learning academic content while developing skills in all language and literacy domains – listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

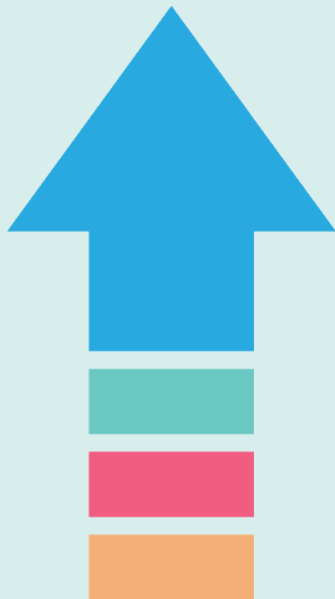
New Challenges and Opportunities

COVID-19 posed significant challenges to the learning and well-being of all students, and particular populations like multilingual learners were disproportionately impacted.

At the same time, the multilingual student population in Clovis increased considerably, both during the pandemic and in the years following. As a result, the district placed a considerable emphasis on supporting services and resources for these students in their Local Control Accountability Plan.

Lisa Vuola, a Learning Director for Multilingual Services, had heard about Listenwise from teachers as well as attended a webinar featuring a leader in a nearby district that had been using the platform successfully with multilingual students.

Lisa was encouraged by the feedback and offered her recommendation to Clovis' leadership team that the district adopt Listenwise for all learners. Longtime Listenwise champion and Coordinator of Instructional Technology and Professional Development Sherri Johnston shared her recommendation as well.



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Implementing Listenwise District-Wide

“ Listenwise lessons align really well with our pacing guides in ELA and social studies, making it easy to find lessons that match with what they are already teaching.

— IT Coach, Clovis North High School

Teachers across content areas report various ways that they use Listenwise to support their learners.

“Listenwise lessons align really well with our pacing guides in ELA and social studies,” shared a Clovis IT Coach, “[That makes] it easy to find lessons that match with what they are already teaching.”

Listenwise lessons fit into the scope and sequence of their core curricula to incorporate authentic multimedia content and effective language and literacy instruction for students at a range of ELP levels. Listenwise also offers a customized curriculum mapping service that aligns lessons with a district’s specific core curricula to ensure seamless and time-saving integration for teachers.

The screenshot shows the Listenwise website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Search current events and lessons" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar is a navigation menu with the following items: Lessons, Current Events, Favorites, Classes, My Library, and Standards. The main heading is "All Lessons" with a sub-heading "Designed for Students at English Language Proficiency Levels 1-6". Below this is a filter bar with "Science", "Social Studies", "ELA", and "ELD/ESL" options, along with a search icon. A note states: "Lessons marked ELD are specifically designed for students at lower levels of English language proficiency (levels 1-3)." There are four lesson cards displayed in a row:

- How to Be Your Own Best Friend**: ELA. Kids can sometimes be hard on themselves and forget the importance.
- Graphic Novel "New Kid" by Jerry Craft (ELD)**: ELD / ESL, ELA. Just about everyone has the experience of being the "new kid" at
- Climate Change and Animals (ELD)**: ELD / ESL, Science. Scientists define climate change as the change in Earth's weather patterns
- Discussing Ki "Wonder" (EL)**: ELD / ESL, EL. The novel *Wonder* fifth grade boy

Listenwise's Impact on Clovis' Multilingual Learners

Teachers of multilinguals or students who need additional literacy supports use Listenwise to front-load content and provide a different modality for students to access information about a particular topic without reducing rigor.

“Listenwise uses authentic audio, and given what we know about the research on listening comprehension, this is another way we can support struggling readers,” says another Clovis IT Coach, “In the elementary grades, intervention teachers will sometimes play a story multiple times to scaffold instruction and provide multiple opportunities to engage with concepts, teach note taking skills, and help students to acquire academic vocabulary. We think Listenwise can complement the work we are doing to improve the way we teach reading.”

“ The question types on Listenwise quizzes are similar to what students see when taking the listening component of the English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPAC) and the CAASPP, so many of our ELD teachers use Listenwise to help prepare for those assessments

— Lisa Vuola, Learning Director - EL Services, Clovis USD

California multilingual learners also benefit from Listenwise as a test prep tool. Learning Director Lisa Vuola explains, “The question types on Listenwise quizzes are similar to what students see when taking the listening component of the English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPAC) and the CAASPP, so many of our ELD teachers use Listenwise to help prepare for those assessments.”



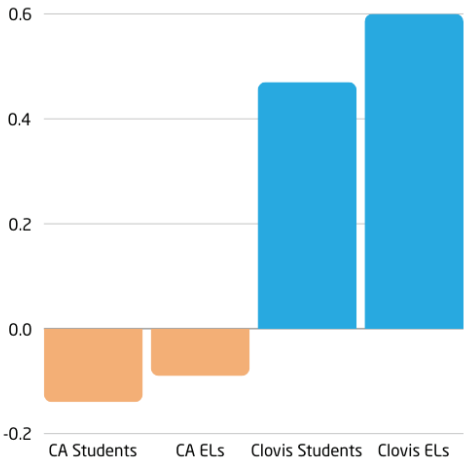
In addition to test prep, Listenwise is being used to develop students' higher order thinking skills and academic discourse.

“Listenwise discussion prompts and the teaching strategies in their lesson plans offer meaningful opportunities for students to engage in academic conversations, including turn-and-talks, think-pair-shares, and class debates,” says Vuola.

2024 Data Shows Promising Results

Listening performance declined on average statewide, with a .14% point drop for all students and .09% point drop for multilingual learners.

When Clovis received their 2024 CAASPP results, the data showed continued growth coming out of the long tail impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Clovis saw gains in their CAASPP listening scores. Clovis improved listening scores .47% points for all students and .60% points for multilingual learners. This came at a time when Clovis saw the fastest growth in the number of multilingual learners the district has ever seen, including new arrivals who bring over 50 new languages to the district.



In 2024, Clovis USD improved listening scores .47% points for all students and .60% points for multilingual learners.

“We are fortunate to have a number of instructional resources to choose from, but Listenwise has been a team favorite and we know it’s making a difference for our teachers and students,” says Coordinator of Instructional Technology and Professional Development Sherri Johnston, “Listenwise has been flexible in working with us to make adjustments to their products in order to meet our unique teacher needs. We look forward to our continued partnership with Listenwise.”

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— Sherri Johnston, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Clovis USD