



Spartanburg School District Two, South Carolina

About the District

Location:

Spartanburg County, SC

Setting:

Suburban

Enrollment:

12,000

Economically Disadvantaged:

68%

Multilingual Learners:

21%

Title I Schools:

5

United by Visible Learning+ and Teacher Clarity, Spartanburg 2 rose through the state rankings in 4 years to become one of the highest-achieving districts in the state.

Corwin Solution

Visible Learning+

Teacher Clarity

How Leadership Works

Years Implemented:

2020–2024

Consultants:

Douglas Fisher, Nancy Frey,
Aida Allen-Rotell, Kelley King,
Kierstan Barbee

The Challenge

Between 2018 and 2020, the district had made meaningful progress establishing foundational PLC structures across most of its schools. However, leadership recognized that basic structures alone weren't enough. The next critical step was integrating John Hattie's high-impact Visible Learning practices to meaningfully improve student learning, and they didn't yet have a clear path to making that happen.

Corwin-Spartanburg Professional Learning Partnership

The district first learned about Visible Learning+ in 2018 at Corwin's Annual Visible Learning Conference featuring Professor Hattie. When COVID hit in 2020, the district turned to *The Distance Learning Playbook* by Douglas Fisher, Nancy Frey, and John Hattie and virtual PD with Doug and Nancy to keep the work focused and moving. In partnership with their Corwin Advisor, district leaders determined that Teacher Clarity would be their entry point into Hattie's high-impact practices.

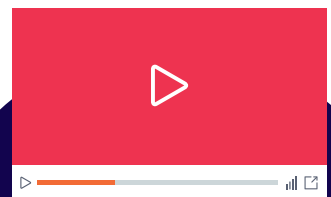
Over the next four years, the district built a bold, system-wide Teacher Clarity infrastructure:

- Certifying all instructional coaches and district team members in Teacher Clarity through Corwin, equipping internal staff to lead professional development district-wide
- Delivering monthly Tier I PD cascaded from principals > coaches > teachers, facilitated by those certified coaches, with each group applying and contextualizing the learning
- Launching Teacher Clarity Bootcamps for new teachers, facilitated by internal certified staff
- Growing instructional leadership through How Leadership Works training delivered by Corwin consultants, strengthening the principal layer of the cascade
- Providing Corwin-led virtual institutes on Teacher Clarity and Success Criteria to teachers and administrators across all schools
- Producing Models of Success Videos showcasing district teachers applying Teacher Clarity across PD sessions
- Embedding Teacher Clarity into curriculum guides with Corwin consultant support
- Guiding six schools through the Visible Learning School Awards Certification process
- Scaling impact district-wide through system-wide Learning Walks and virtual institutes

A District Transformed

As Teacher Clarity has taken root in PLCs across the district, even the most skeptical teachers have become believers won over by what they see happening in their own classrooms. Achievement gaps are closing. State rankings keep climbing. Equity gaps are narrowing across every subject and every student population.

And perhaps most remarkably, the district is doing it all while ranked 4th from the bottom in per-pupil spending. This is not a story about resources. It is a story about clarity, consistency, and an unshakable belief that every student deserves great teaching — and the results prove it.

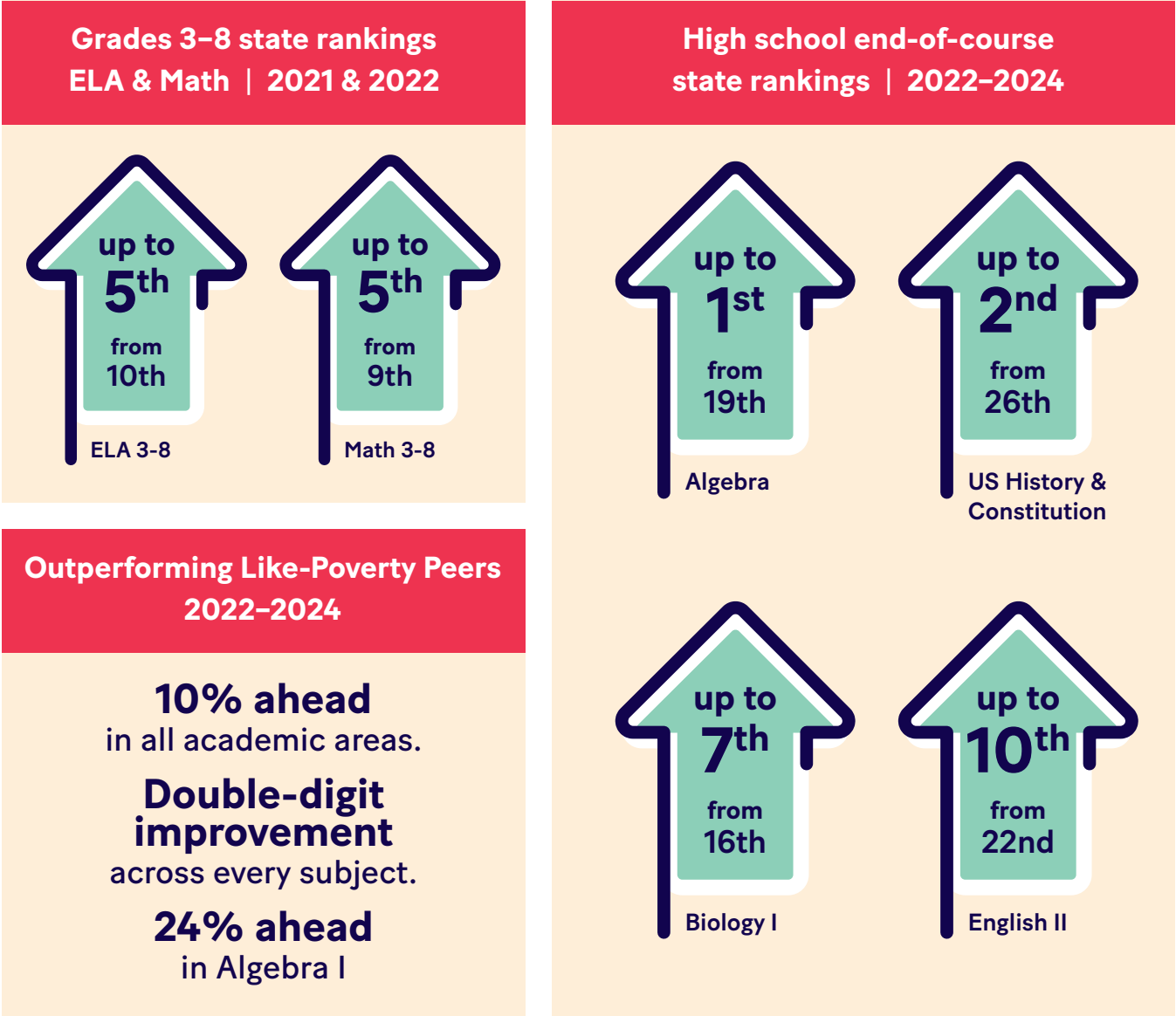


VIDEO: Dr. Angela Hinton's Teacher Clarity journey

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Angela Hinton shares the positive impact of her district's teacher clarity journey.

Evidence of Efficacy

Spartanburg’s results redefine what’s possible when educators come together to make learning clear and visible for students. The district’s Grade 3-8 achievement shot up the state rankings within 1-2 years of going all in on Visible Learning+ and Teacher Clarity. High school achievement followed with massive gains within 2-4 years. The district achieved this growth while also growing by more than 2,000 new students, including multilingual learner newcomers and students with IEPs.



Looking Ahead

As the district looks ahead, the focus deepens from systemic structures to the heart of what makes learning personal, ensuring every student is known by name and need with consistent, coherent instruction across every classroom. New teachers are brought into the work through Teacher Clarity training led by internal certified staff, passing the learning forward with fidelity. Academic Olympics, Stories of Collective Efficacy, and the D2 Instructional Playbook—resources created by and for this district—keep the system knowing, showing, and growing its impact: living documents that reflect not just where the district has been, but where it is headed.

“Teacher Clarity is not one more thing, it is **THE THING** effective teachers do from beginning to end of every lesson and in assessing evidence of student learning!”

—Angela Hinton, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Spartanburg School District Two, Chesnee, SC

Learn more about how your district can move from inspiration to action to impact.

Contact your [Corwin Advisor](#) to discuss how we can help you meet your learning goals.

