

LIVE STAFFING

SCIENCE

Elevate K-12, now part of Fullmind

Paton–Churdan CSD: science proficiency rebounded from 18% to 64% in one year

THE CHALLENGE

From 2021 to 2023, the district relied on a state-approved online program but found it low quality, and science performance declined. By 2023, proficiency on the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) Science exam had dropped to 18%, down from 73% in 2019.

WHAT WE DID

In 2023, Paton–Churdan partnered with Elevate K-12 for real-time instruction from a certified science teacher with 25 years of teaching experience, teaching LIVE rather than through recorded or self-paced content.

AT A GLANCE

District	Paton–Churdan CSD
State	Iowa
Subject	Science
Teacher experience	25 years
Partnership began	2023
Measure	ISASP Science

18% → 64%

students proficient, 2023 to 2024

256%

increase in students scoring proficient

64% vs. 59.9%

Paton–Churdan vs. Iowa statewide science proficiency, 2024



What started as a backup plan is now something we love and are excited about.

Annie Smith · PK–12 Principal, Paton–Churdan Community School District

Results reflect the Elevate cohort in one small district and period. Source: Paton–Churdan case study (Elevate K-12, March 2025); Iowa Department of Education.