BRANCHING MINDS

Visibility Into the Effectiveness of Your District's MTSS Practice

As an administrative leader, you need to understand how students at every level are progressing so that you can make informed decisions about what is or isn't working and what needs to change to support your staff and improve student outcomes. Branching Minds (BRM) not only provides you with that needed visibility into your data, but our MTSS platform takes it one step further, providing your team with guidance to consistently implement best practices that save them time and effort while improving the efficacy of their student support planning. When you implement Branching Minds, you provide your broader team with scaffolded tools to not only visualize student data and evaluate effectiveness, but also collaboratively problem-solve and make aligned, effective data-driven decisions at every level. Branching Minds can help you:

• Identify performance gaps across schools, grades, and by demographics
• Pinpoint where additional support or resourcing is required, and monitor the impact of supports and resourcing provided
• Help your staff adopt and accomplish best practices of identifying who needs support proactively, and then developing, implementing, and monitoring support plans effectively
• Align teams and provide transparency that enables communication across stakeholders, while reducing redundant meetings and fragmented documentation practices
• Streamline documentation and reporting to save all staff time and effort meeting compliance requirements
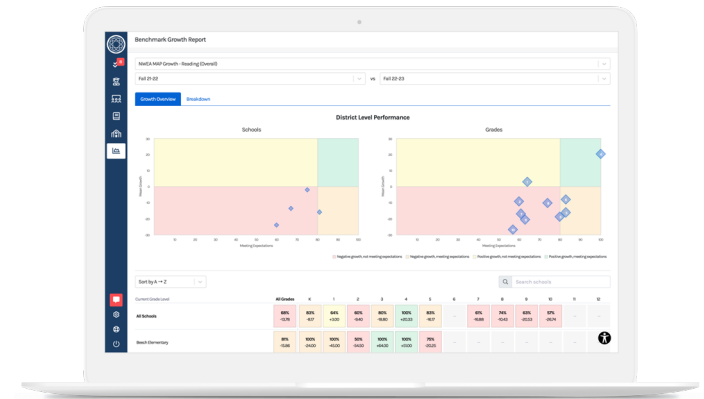
Use Your Data To Monitor and Support System-Level Health At Every Level

What is and isn't Working, for Whom, and Why at the District, School, Grade, Class, Groups, and Individual Level Across Demographics

▶ Know Who To Support and Who To Celebrate With Visibility of Improvements Across Schools, Grades, and Demographic Groups

Would you like to be able to use your assessment data to see which schools are making progress from the fall to the winter? Or which grades across the whole district are meeting expectations? Or be able to see if particular cohorts of students are falling behind disproportionately to other students?

The Benchmark Growth Report provides you with an understanding of the current performance level and growth rate across grade levels and campuses based on existing assessment data. With this report, you can get a clear picture of which schools and grade levels are underperforming, which are on track, and which are progressing. You can also see how students are growing by subgroups, such as race, ethnicity, English proficiency, and special education.
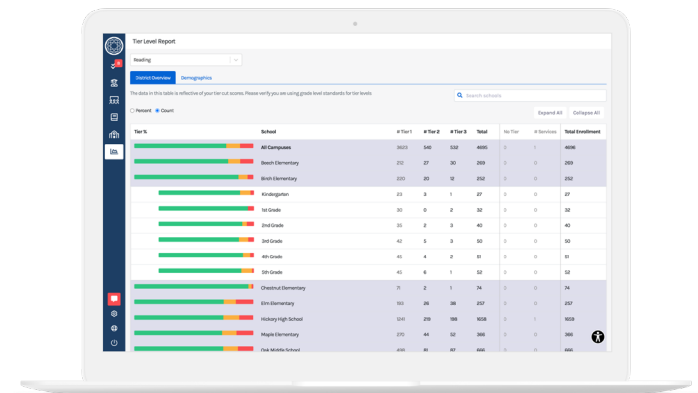

Benchmark Growth Report

▶ Understand Where or For Whom You Need To Strengthen Your Tiered Practice

Want to know where, or for whom, you need to strengthen your tier 2 support? Or which schools or grade levels may need more literacy support? Or if a particular cohort of learners are not being supported equitably?

The Tier Level Report can provide the insight you need to understand the distribution of students across tiers, broken down by campus, grade, topic, and demographic subpopulations. By using this report, you can identify areas where support is insufficient or inequitable, and provide the necessary scaffolding or allocate the right resources.
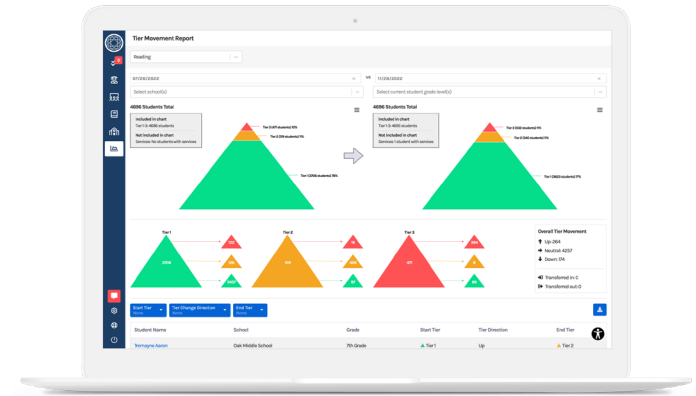

Tier Level Report

BRANCHING MINDS

▶ **Monitor the Progress of The Tiered Support Your Staff is Providing to Students – What's Working for Whom, What Isn't and Why?**

In a healthy support practice more students will be effectively supported by less intense levels of support, but most educators don't have an easy way to see the trends of support levels.

The Tier Movement Report helps educators keep an eye on how different cohorts' support needs are progressing over time. After a few cycles of support, which students made progress, which students are stagnating? Which students now need a more intense level of support? By providing administrators and educators visibility into the effectiveness of support at each tier level for students by schools, grades, groups, cohorts, demographics or other attributes, they are able to unpack where the support provided has been impactful, or requisite of revision.
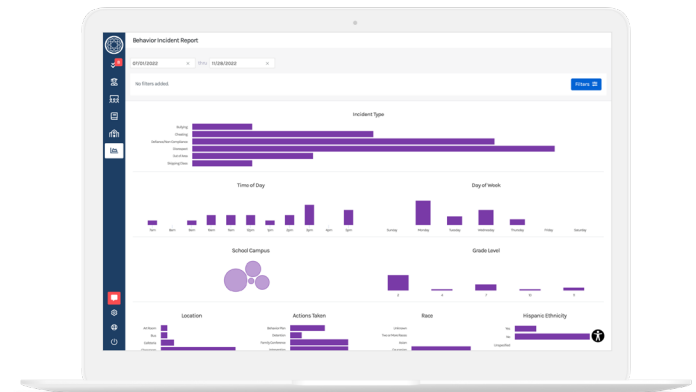

Tier Movement Report

▶ **Use Behavior Incidents Data to Pattern Match and Problem Solve for Students and Systems**

Do your teachers have a way to document both major and minor behavior incidents? Do they also have a way to use those data to figure out if there is a pattern to the behaviors affecting one or many members of your school community? Or patterns to the actions taken in response to those incidents?

The Behavior Incident Report allows staff to review and problem-solve behavior needs that present as major or minor incidents. The incidents can be logged directly onto the platform or ingested from external sources. Incidents tagged as major require the teacher to indicate which school administrator must be notified, and the platform sends notifications to the administrator through email and to-do lists. Many characteristics can be used to filter the incidents, and the graphs can help administrators pattern match across behavior incidents to identify particular problem times, days, and locations. You can view the data from the aggregate report or within each student's Plan & Progress page to support holistic problem-solving for individual students. Incidents can even be logged from a mobile device!
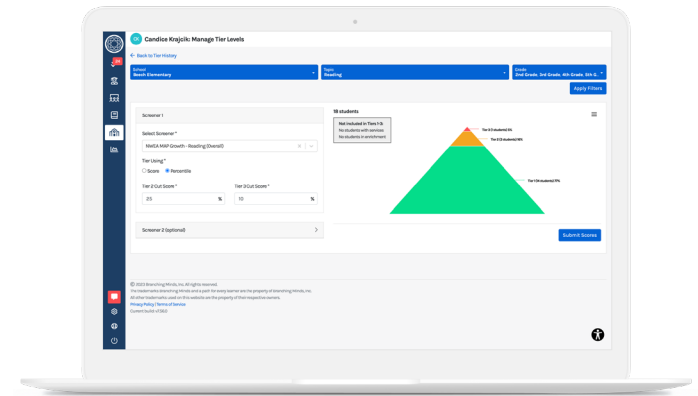

Behavior Incident Report

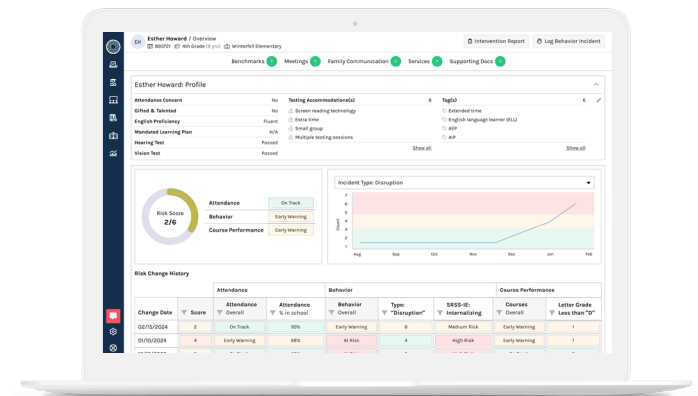## ▶ Help Your Teams Identify Student Risk Proactively and Equitably

How do your teachers identify which students get what level of support? Is it proactive enough? Is it done equitably? Are you sure there aren't students slipping through the cracks, who's needs are not being identified early enough? Or at all?

On BRM, you can leverage your district's universal screener data that BRM ingests, and apply cut scores based on your district's defined criteria. In this way, your teachers can quickly learn and provide the level of support recommended for each student within a topic area.

In addition to using assessment data, BRM provides you with an Early Warning System that helps make sure students' needs are being identified and addressed equitably and proactively through a personalizable early warning system. Your teams can set district and grade-specific risk thresholds across attendance, course performance, and behavior data so they can respond as soon as students' needs increase. Educators can easily identify at-risk students and take supportive actions, including assigning students to work with particular teachers, creating groups and group support plans, and generating family communications and student support reports.
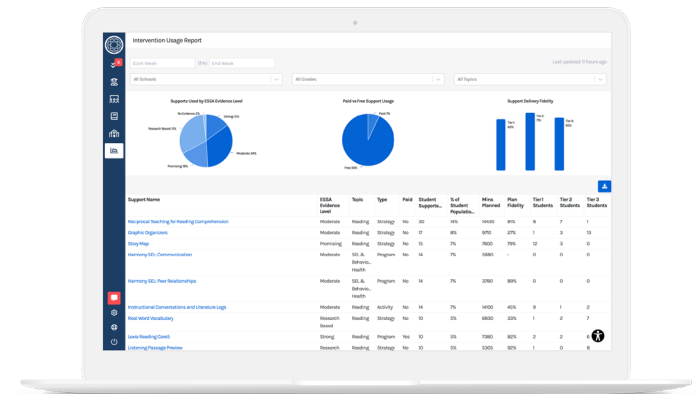

Bulk Tiering

Early Warning System

▶ Learn Which Interventions and Supports Are Effective Across Your District

Want to know which interventions are being used the most? Want to know if a program you adopted is actually being implemented with fidelity? Or if teachers are using evidence based interventions or not?

The Intervention Usage Report gives administrators access to detailed data on intervention usage across their organization, including breakdowns by network, schools, grades, staff, and topics. The feature includes graphs that display information on ESSA evidence levels, paid versus free interventions, and support delivery fidelity by tier. Staff can view the aggregate usage of each intervention and sort and export the data as needed.
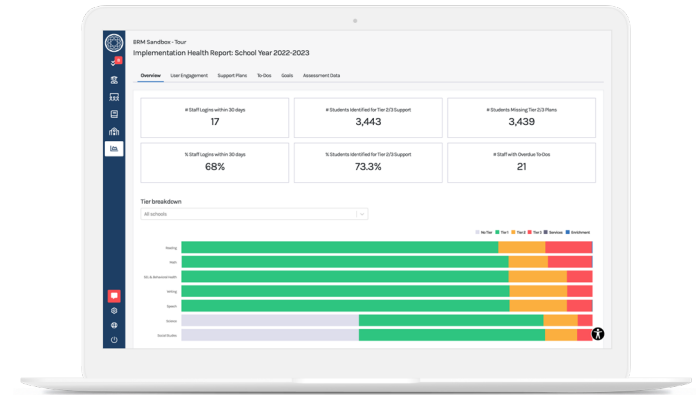

Intervention Usage Report

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▶ Keep an Eye on the Metrics of "MTSS Implementation" That Matter

Looking for a way to monitor the progress of system level change work? Want a centralized way to track KPIs for a healthy MTSS across your whole district?

The Implementation Health Report provides administrators with track district-wide system health metrics and a breakdown of students supported by each tier level within each subject. This report also provides visibility to see:

- User Engagement - an overview of staff logging into the platform,
- Support Plan - highlighting students who require Tier 2 or Tier 3 support plans but don't have them versus those with active intervention plans in place,
- To-Dos - identifying disconnects between planned, overdue and completed work across staff, and
- Assessment Data - providing an overview of the assessments shared with the BRM platform to monitor what data sources have been ingested.
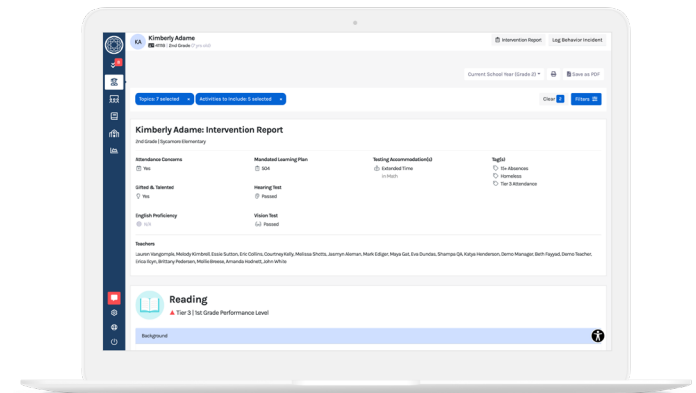
Implementation Health Report

▶ Easily Generate Reporting To Meet All Compliance Requirements

Want to ensure your staff is collecting all of the data needed and have an easy way to report out on compliance requirements without causing any extra work for your staff?

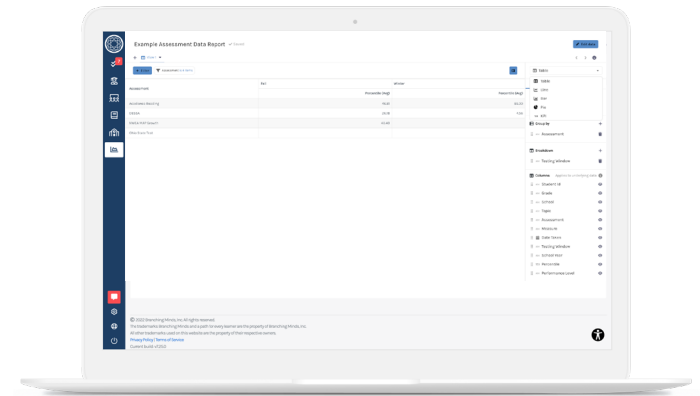## ▶ BRM Centralizes the Data Needed and Makes it Easy to Generate Reports

By managing all aspects of a Multi Tiered System of Support, the BRM platform helps administrators centralize all of the information needed to generate the reports and exports that demonstrate their staff have met state and federal compliance requirements supporting students effectively and equitably. These data are viewable and exportable at varying levels from district to student and can all be exported as needed. These data are collected on BRM as a byproduct to teachers doing the work to help improve student outcomes, rather than it being documentation work after the fact. That's what we call a win win!

Individual Student Information Report

▶ **Custom Data Report**

Centralizing data is necessary but not helpful unless staff are able to access those data to drive effective decision-making. With the BRM Custom Data Report your staff can use your district data to answer questions about your systems, your staff, your students, and your practice.
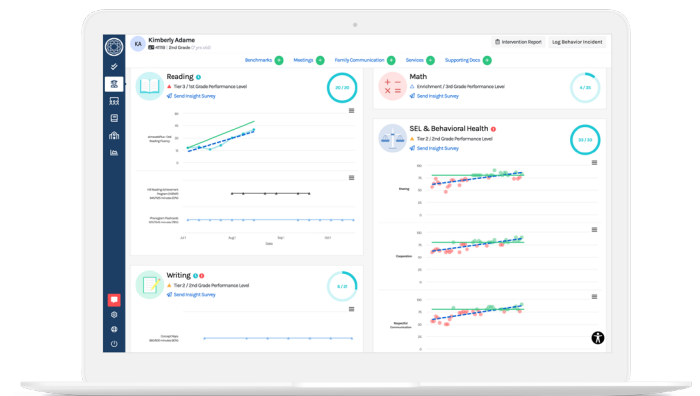

Custom Data Report

Unify Siloed Teams, Centralize Fragmented Data, and Scaffold Best Practices For Teachers

Help Teachers and Support Teams Effectively Drive Positive Outcomes While Meeting Documentation Requirements

▶ **Seeing the Big Picture for Each Student With Just One Click**

Are your teachers looking for a single centralized view of all of the information they need to understand to be able to support their students? Are they tired of logging into multiple tools to see fragmented data, or working in isolation, unable to effectively collaborate?

The BRM Student Overview provides educators with a comprehensive view of a student's academic and behavioral progress, testing accommodations, IEP, 504 designations, and more, all on a single page. With one click, teachers can view the student's benchmark data across subjects across time, all of the active and historical support plans, meeting logs, family communications, services, and supporting documents. They can also see snapshots of any active support plans that any of their colleagues are providing so they can start collaborating with colleagues working to support shared students. From this same page, teachers can also add benchmarks, document meetings, generate family communications, log services, create new support plans, and upload student work samples.
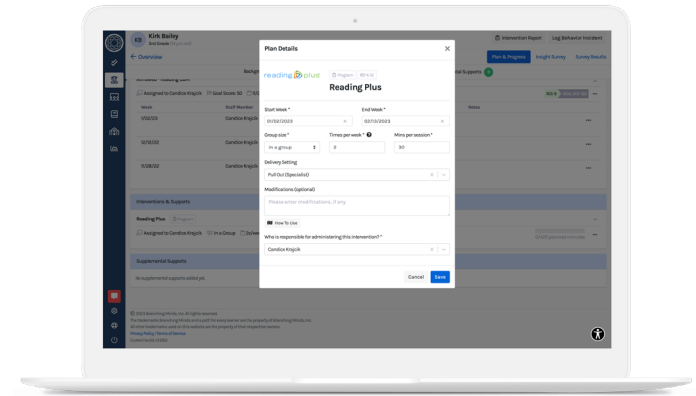

Student Overview

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► Scaffolding Support Planning and Intervention & Accommodation Selection Guided by Best Practices
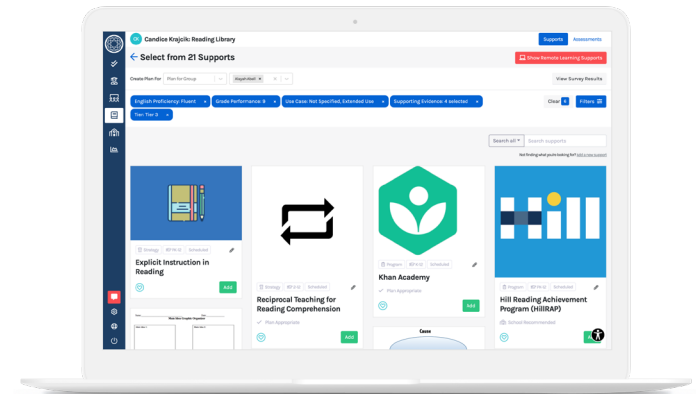
Do all of your teachers know how to create targeted student support plans, with SMART goals and progress monitoring plans, using evidence-based interventions and learning supports aligned to the student's needs, that follow all of the best practices?

BRM scaffolds the creation of SMART goals, progress monitoring, and intervention & accommodation plans using best practices, taking into account the level of student support needed, the topic area, and the resources available at each school. All of these plan components are then assignable to one or multiple educators so they can stay on top of their work, and their colleagues can stay informed of student support and progress in real-time.

Interventions and accommodations are selected from the BRM Support Library, which provides evidence-based intervention programs, learning supports, activities, strategies, and tools across grade levels and subjects, covering academics, behavior, and SEL. Teachers can filter the library to quickly find supports aligned with their Tier 1, 2, or 3 core instruction or differentiation needs. The library is also filterable by individual or group of students, curating appropriate supports based on age, grade performance, English proficiency, tier level, and challenge areas.
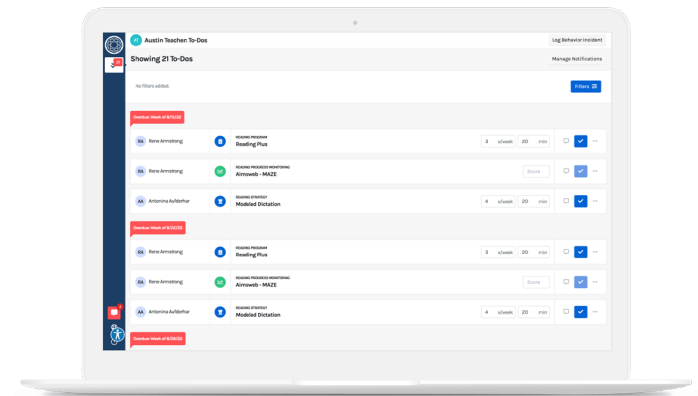

Support Plan

Intervention & Support Library

▶ Streamlining Documentation, Saving Time & Effort

Once student support plans have been created, do you have an easy way to see if they are being implemented? Do your teachers have an easy way to document their work so that it is accessible by their colleagues and easily plugged into all family communications and reports?

BRM allows for all steps in the MTSS practice to be assignable and pre-populated on educators' To-Do pages. This helps educators stay on top of their tasks and collaboratively monitor student progress. BRM also sends weekly reminder emails to educators. This system saves teachers significant time and effort while documenting, and helps ensure intervention is delivered with fidelity. Across all district partners, a high percentage of teachers and school leaders report that BRM has improved their intervention practice and meetings.
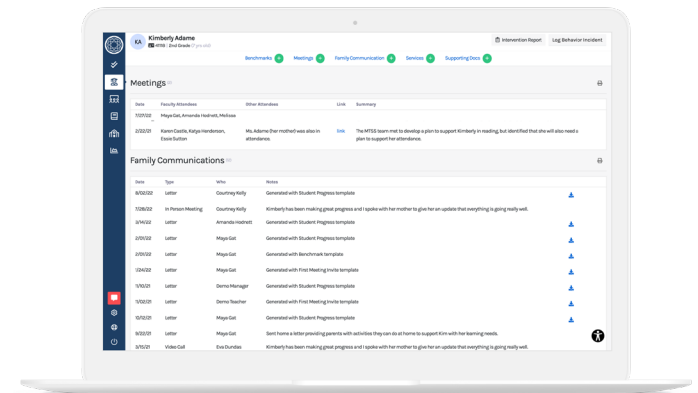
To-Dos List

> "I love how quick and easy it is! Entering data takes minutes instead of hours."

Valery Haskett, Teacher, Alta Vista School, Waco ISD (Texas)

▶ Family Communications Generated and Meetings Documented To Provide Visibility for All Stakeholders
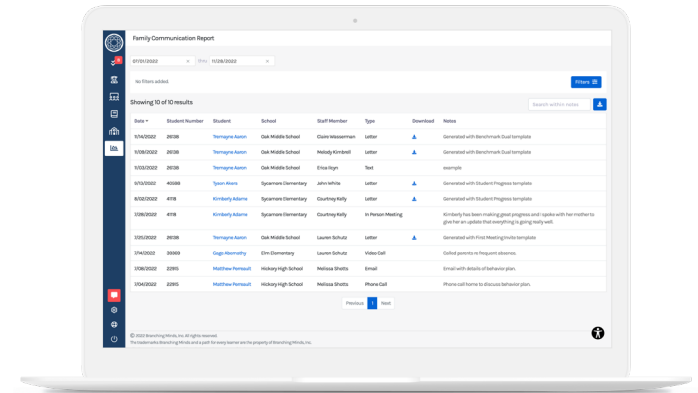
How do teachers create family communications and scaffold their support meetings? Do your teams have a place to document their support meetings, where are they recording all of their family communications? Do those critical chapters of the student support story end up across a myriad of systems or files?

BRM provides educators with an easy way to create, log and review relevant family communications, forms and supporting documents for one, or many students at a time. Both the family communications and forms functions on BRM can be set up with templates that automatically populate the document with information about the student, their performance, and the support plans provided; thereby streamlining the process of creating these communications while ensuring consistency in the type of information shared. Once these communications have been generated on BRM they can be added to either the supporting documents log or the family communication log, so that all other educators or administrators are able to review what has been created. Staff are also able to log and review meetings for each student from the same centralized location.

Services and Meetings Documentation

BRM makes it easy for teachers and administrators to quickly call up all family communications. The platform offers filtering options for family communications by various categories such as communication type, school, grade level, staff or student association, plan status, gender, race, etc. This helps teachers and administrators view all communication related to their students in one place. The platform also offers customizable templates for bulk mailing that auto-populate with relevant student-specific information based on the purpose of the communication.
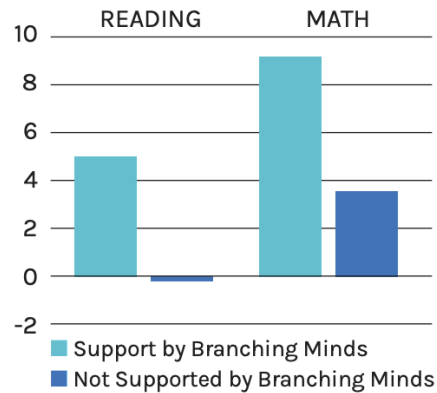

Family Communication Report

Improve Student Outcomes, Address Opportunity Gaps, Save Teachers Time & Effort – All While Meeting Compliance Needs

▶ **BRM Partners with Districts to Help Them Ensure Their Time and Effort is Spent in Ways That Will Drive Better Outcomes for Students**

Teachers and administrators spend A LOT of time working to support students through a tiered system. Do you know if the time and effort they are spending is resulting in the outcomes you want for your students?

BRM's MTSS expertise and partnership approach addresses both technical and adaptive change needs, provides system-level visibility into MTSS health, offers built-in professional learning, recommends proactive and equitable practices, and guides teachers with scaffolded workflows that both help meet best practice recommendations that drive positive student outcomes and all of the various compliance-based reporting needs.

Our platform helps districts to combine disparate data sources for a holistic view of student performance, and to manage the complex processes and practices in a Multi-Tiered System of Supports. Most importantly, the platform and professional learning guide teachers and support team members to review data, and know how to best create a plan of action for student success.

BRANCHING MINDS

READING **MATH**
- ■ Support by Branching Minds
- ■ Not Supported by Branching Minds

▶ ## BRM Promotes Positive Academic Outcomes in Both Reading and Math

Students supported on BRM made statistically significant gains in reading (an average increase of 5 percentile points) over similar students not supported on BRM (an average decrease of 0.3 percentile points). Students supported on BRM also made statistically significant gains in mathematics (an average increase of 9.3 percentile points) over similar students not supported on BRM (an average increase of 3.7 percentile points). The results of this study were presented at the 2018 annual conference of the American Education Research Association and are available to share in a white paper.

▶ ## The Impact of Using BRM as an MTSS Platform on Students' Academic Achievement and Teachers' Work (white paper)

BRM was designed to reduce the burden of implementing MTSS by helping teachers and schools work together to understand student learning needs, find evidence-based interventions aligned to those needs, and seamlessly monitor and report on progress. The goal of this study was to evaluate the impact of using BRM as an MTSS platform on students' academic achievement.

The main finding: Students who had a documented intervention plan on the BRM platform had significant improvements in their reading and mathematics performance on the NWEA MAP assessment

We also reported additional finding:

As a technology-based platform, it is feasible to implement Branching Minds and expect strong teacher engagement.	Branching Minds shows potential to improve teachers' perceptions of their own ability to support struggling students, though more data are needed.	Students supported on Branching Minds made statistically significant gains in reading **↑5pts** avg over similar students not supported on Branching Minds (an average decrease of .3 percentile points)	Students supported on Branching Minds made statistically significant gains in mathematics **↑9.3pts** avg over similar students not supported on Branching Minds (an average decrease of 3.7 percentile points)	**94%** of school and district administrators agree that the insight survey results have helped them better understand their students' academic learning and/or behavioral needs	**94%** of school and district administrators agree that Branching Minds has increased their communication and collaboration with other teachers and staff members around the work they are doing	**97%** of district administrators believe that Branching Minds has/or will improve their ability to support struggling students

BRANCHING MINDS

> "When deciding on which platform would be the best partner for CMS, our team of teachers and administrators found Branching Minds to be best-in-class - the most user-friendly for teachers and the most powerful data-driven solution for administrators.
>
> *— Dr. Frank Barnes, Former Chief Accountability Officer at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools*

[Learn How Branching Minds Helps You Save Time and Money]