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SUCCESS STORY >

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS INCREASE SCORES ON STATE ACHIEVEMENT TESTS WITH DESTINATION READING®

The Situation

Palm Beach County, Florida is serving 20,073 English Language Learners from kindergarten through high school. Students who are not proficient in English receive instructional services through the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program.

The primary focus of the program is to develop student proficiency in the English language.

Already using Destination Math®, which is available in both English and Spanish, the ESOL department investigated Destination Reading® expecting the same high quality product. After reviewing multiple products, Destination Reading was chosen and introduced through a summer school pilot project in 22 elementary, middle, and high schools including

professional development for the ESOL teachers. The project was funded through No Child Left Behind, Title III funds.

Project Goals

1. To use Destination Reading with elementary, middle, and high school students in the English for Speakers of Other Languages program.
2. To increase students' reading skills and understanding of English.

Solution

Destination Reading was chosen based on the district's positive experience with Destination Math and on how thoroughly Destination Reading correlates to the Florida Sunshine State Standards.



Customer Profile

Palm Beach County
Public School District
223 Schools
10,000 Teachers
168,000 Students
29% Black
21% Hispanic
38% Free or reduced lunch
11.6% Limited English
Proficiency

Products and Services

Destination Reading
Professional Development

Key Benefits

Students are increasing their passing rate on state achievement tests by 8-10% a year.

“The students were enthralled by the graphics and movement and were engaged at all times. The lessons seem long enough to get the message across but short enough to continue to hold the interest of the children.”

—Dr. Lisa Troute, ESOL Curriculum Specialist

Dr. Lisa Troute, ESOL Curriculum Specialist, added, “One of the real key selling points was that it’s Internet-based so it can be accessed both from school and from home. Teachers turn the computer on and it’s there.”

The Results

The summer program was a huge success. Dr. Troute found that Destination Reading, while designed for primary students, worked well at all grade levels including high school for beginning English students. “The students were enthralled by the graphics and movement and were engaged at all times. The lessons seem long enough to get the message across but short enough to continue to hold the interest of the children.”

Summer school teachers returned to their home schools and demanded that Destination Reading

be made available in their schools. According to Dr. Troute, they told their home school principals, “We’ve got to have this program. It’s an incredible program, it does wonderful things.” She began receiving e-mails and phone calls from principals asking for the program.

Dr. Troute and the Director of Instructional Technology took this information to the school board. “The school board said if it’s this good for ESOL it’s good for all the struggling readers in the district. And so the school board made a district-wide purchase.” Dr. Troute adds, “Because it’s such a great program our entire elementary education department (approximately 100 elementary schools) has adopted Destination as a part of the K-3 literacy curriculum. We found something good and now everybody else discovered it. They love it too so that’s a good thing.”

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