



DESTINATION

imagine



discover



SUCCESS STORY >

64% HIGHER PASS RATE ON MCAS WITH DESTINATION MATH®

The Situation

Research shows that performance on one high-stakes test will often predict performance on another. Administrators in Marblehead, MA were finding this pattern in the failure rates of students on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). In 1998, when Marblehead 8th graders (class of 2002) took the MCAS, twenty-eight of them failed or barely passed in the "Needs Improvement" category. Two years later, when the same students took the 10th grade version, four out of five of the low scoring students failed again. Administrators were eager to address this problem.

During the 2000-01 school year, administrators focused on the 10th graders (class of 2003) who were to take the MCAS that year. At-risk students were identified as those who had previously failed or scored in the lower half of "Needs Improvement" on the 8th grade test.

These students then participated in a 14-week remedial program that focused on the skills covered on the test and used *Destination Math* as the primary mode of instruction. The class met twice a week in a study period in small classes with an experienced math teacher. Students focused on topics in arithmetic, pre-algebra, algebra, geometry, statistics, and probability.

Project Goals

1. Use *Destination Math* in remedial study groups to address math deficits.
2. Improve the passing scores of the students in the at-risk group.



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT
Learning Technology



Customer Profile

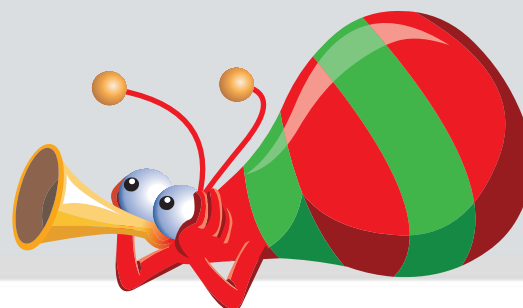
Marblehead Public Schools
 Marblehead, MA
 8 Public schools
 5.9% Minority enrollment
 5.9% Low income
 16.9% Special needs

Products and Services

Destination Math

Key Benefits

At-Risk students passed the MCAS at an 81% rate, compared to 17% for the previous year



Solution

Destination Math is a complete (K-12), supplemental mathematics program that teaches basic skills, math reasoning, conceptual understanding, and problem solving. The comprehensive courses move from assessments based on state standards to sequenced, prescriptive, step-by-step instruction in math skills. Students get the individualized skills instruction they need to master the math curriculum.

Destination Math was chosen for its breadth of subject matter, for its assessment capabilities, and for its ability to individualize curriculum for students based on assessment results.

The Results

In April 2001, all 10th graders in the high school took the MCAS. The pass rate for the at-risk students was 81 percent.

Students who used *Destination Math* had a 64

percent higher pass rate than students who did not take part in the intervention program. These results demonstrate that *Destination Math*, accompanied by good teaching and a focused mission, can produce dramatic test results in a short period of time.

Marblehead is continuing to use *Destination Math* to help all at-risk 8th graders prepare for the MCAS.

Comparison of At-Risk Student Performance on 10th Grade MCAS		
	Class of 2002	Class of 2003
Passed in 10th Grade	5	29
Failed in 10th Grade	23	7
Pass Rate	17%	81%
Destination Math	No	Yes

A7386

© 2005-2008 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Destination Reading and Destination Math are registered trademarks of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.