



DESTINATION

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SUCCESS STORY >

STUDENTS ACHIEVE SIGNIFICANT GAINS WITH DESTINATION MATH® ALGEBRA

The Situation

In 2000, high school math chair Anne Thrasher was assigned two groups of students who had failed algebra in the fall semester. Based on a presentation of *Destination Math* at an annual NCTM conference, she made a commitment to use the program intensively.

The students were all mainstream, without significant linguistic or learning problems. They simply had not been successful at math and lacked self-confidence. The course was presented as an option for students who wanted a second chance.

In January 2000, Thrasher's students began using *Destination Math Pre-Algebra* in a laboratory situation for one period nearly every day for a month. Because of the focus on passing Algebra I, the group was then transitioned into *Destination Math Algebra I*.

She then repeated the study for a second group of students, though with less emphasis on Pre-Algebra. The students took to *Destination Math* with ease.

According to Thrasher, "They liked the animations and the interactivity. It was not just a bunch of drill and practice problems. It was more visually interesting." She continued, "The kids worked very independently, and within a couple of weeks, they were in all different areas of the program." The flexibility of the software allowed her to make instructional decisions that ensured Colorado standards would be met.

Pre-test and post-test scores were analyzed by Dr. Anne O'Dwyer, Adjunct Professor of Statistics, at the University of Massachusetts

Project Goals

1. To use Destination Math as the primary intervention for students who had failed Algebra.
2. Increase pass rate of students to meet Colorado standards.



Customer Profile

Mitchell High School,
Colorado Springs, CO
1365 Students
34% Free or reduced lunch
25% Hispanic

Products and Services

Destination Math

Key Benefits

All students in the intervention program showed very significant gains in their Algebra understanding as measured on the pre- and post-tests.

“The kids worked very independently, and within a couple of weeks, they were in all different areas of the program.”

- Anne Thrasher, Mitchell High School Math Chair, Colorado Springs, CO

Solution

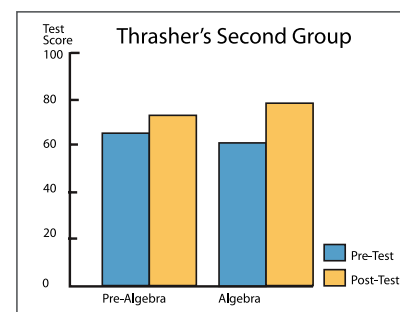
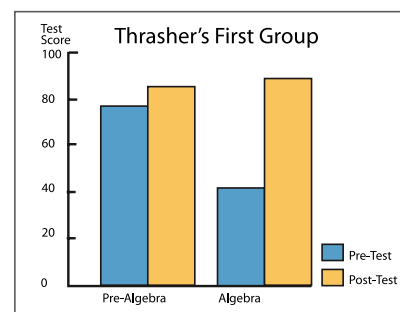
Destination Math is a complete (K-12), supplemental mathematics program that teaches basic skills, math reasoning, conceptual understanding, and problem solving. The comprehensive courses move from assessments based on state standards to sequenced, prescriptive, step-by-step instruction in math skills.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

Destination Math was chosen for its focus on Pre-Algebra and Algebra, its flexibility in assigning students' content, its interactive presentation, its assessment capabilities, and for its ability to individualize curriculum for students based on assessment results.

The Results

Dr. Anne O'Dwyer independently examined the achievement data and reported her findings. She concluded that the gains students achieved were statistically reliable. Of particular note is the improvement in Algebra where the pre- and post-tests do not overlap, which is indicative of very significant effects, with

everyone showing improvement. Based on the success of this intervention, *Destination Math* is now used extensively in the school.



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