



DESTINATION

imagine



discover



SUCCESS STORY >

STUDENTS GAIN 16 PERCENTAGE POINTS ON MATH SCORES

The Situation

The North Carolina State Board of Education has developed an extensive policy framework that focuses on strong accountability with an emphasis on high educational standards, ensuring that all students are provided with a solid foundation for future learning and that local districts have maximum control for creating systems that meet the overall goals set by the state.

Pender County, situated in southeast North Carolina, serves a diverse and largely rural population. Data had set the high school retention rate at 57.6 percent.

In the summer of 2000, Pender County made a strong commitment to ensure that all middle and high school students would learn math from teachers using *Destination Math*. Teachers were trained in a variety of ways, with an ongoing mentoring component being critical to the process. A technology professional developer was hired to

assist participating teachers throughout the district in the implementation of *Destination Math*.

In addition, district and local administrators worked in concert to ensure that various funding sources could be coordinated. For example, all teachers had access to a projection panel that allowed them to take advantage of *Destination Math's* whole-class demonstration capabilities. Teachers used the software once or twice a week on average, generally in a whole-class setting.

Project Goals

1. To use *Destination Math* with all middle and high school students
2. To improve student test scores in math



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT
Learning Technology



Customer Profile

Pender County Public Schools,
North Carolina
14 Schools
7,900 Students
33% Minority
Largely Rural

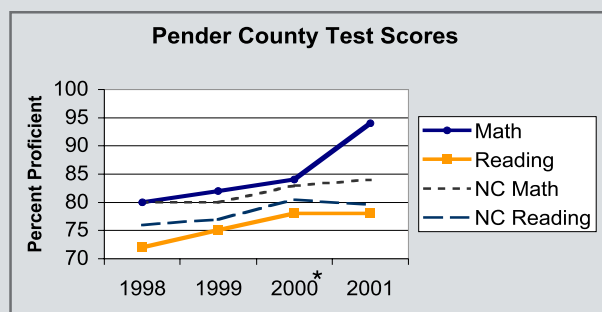
Products and Services

Destination Math
Professional Development

Key Benefits

Students receiving *Destination Math* instruction improved their math proficiency at a much faster rate than other students in the state.

* *Destination Math* was implemented during the 2000–2001 school year.



Solution

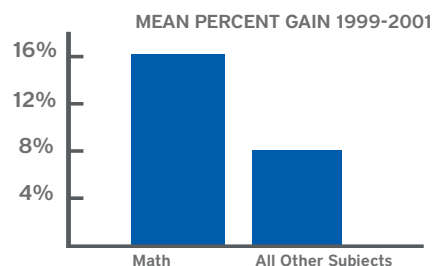
Destination Math was selected for its extensive curriculum resources, individualized assessment and prescription activities and the depth of professional development support made available to teachers.

The Results

Test scores analyses, conducted by University of Massachusetts statistician Dr. Anne O'Dwyer, revealed that Pender County students in all areas experienced gains in proficiency scores. The greatest gains we're concentrated in math. *Destination Math* products were consistently linked to these significant increases in achievement. Students receiving *Destination Math* instruction improved their math proficiency at a much faster rate than other students in the state. While there were gains of 8 percent in proficiency scores in all other subjects, the increase in math was 16 percent. In comparison to North Carolina state scores, the math gain was a full 10 points and was 10 points higher than the state average.

Test scores showed Pender County was able to

increase student achievement in math learning at a statistically significant rate. The effort by the district to provide hardware, software, and training to complement the implementation of *Destination Math* was clearly successful. The response from both students and teachers was excellent. In a 2001 survey, students (n=225) responded with consistent enthusiasm regarding their experiences with *Destination Math*. The data showed that with the help of *Destination Math*, students could more easily understand math concepts. Most encouragingly, students favored those features of the software that developed higher-order thinking, the kind of cognitive operations required on the NC high-stakes test.



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