



DESTINATION



SUCCESS STORY >

FIVE SAN ANTONIO DISTRICTS COLLABORATE TO ADOPT DESTINATION MATH®

The Situation

In the 2004-05 school year all Texas 5th graders must pass the math section of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) in order to be promoted to the 6th grade. Districts in the greater San Antonio area were looking for a way to help their students succeed. In November 2003, Destination received separate calls from North East Independent School District (ISD) and Northside ISD, both looking for a mathematics solution rich in instruction. They had performed extensive research and found that *Destination Math* met their requirements. Luann Weyn and the Math Program Coordinator for North East ISD states, "We have a very good math program in our district, but we needed a supplemental program to support the kids who need extra help."

"Both districts were very pleased with *Destination Math* and took it to the San Antonio Urban Systemic Program (SAUSP), supported by a National Science Foundation grant. SAUSP was looking for a technology curriculum to help change the way teachers teach mathematics and Destination met that challenge.

Dr. Sandra Bloom, Director of SAUSP, arranged for all the districts in the coalition to be introduced to *Destination Math*. Five districts chose to purchase the program with Accelerated Math Instruction, Title I, Bilingual, and Special Education funds. Harlandale ISD, states, " We needed something that we could use to help identify kids' mathematical gaps and provide support to the children to fill in those gaps."

To support the implementation in all districts, SAUSP purchased 90 days of professional development for district administrators and teachers. Over 800 educators were trained by the end of December 2004.

Project Goals

1. Improve the teaching of math across the five districts
2. Provide professional development to support the program
3. Improve 5th grade math scores on TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills)



Customer Profile

Northside ISD
86 schools
85,546 students
59% Hispanic

North East ISD
55 schools
57,679 students
43% Hispanic

Harlandale ISD
24 schools
14,088 students
95% Hispanic
100% Title I
75% ELL

South San Antonio
ISD
18 schools
9,951 students
95% Hispanic

Alamo Heights ISD
7 schools
4,356 students
26% Hispanic

Key Benefits

San Antonio Urban Systemic Program National Science Foundation funded area-wide program to improve the teaching of math.

Products and Services

Destination Math
Professional Development

“Destination Math is absolutely on the leading edge of technology and what we knew technology could do for the teacher – but had never seen anyone implement.”

- Dr. Sandra Bloom, Director, San Antonio Urban Systemic Program

Solution

“The philosophy of our math program is one that builds conceptual understanding and out of conceptual understanding comes all the procedural proficiencies,” stated North East’s Weynand. “Destination had, in our estimation, the best conceptual approach.” For Harlandale ISD, “The first thing that intrigued us was the ability to write the diagnostic test and then link to lessons and strategies in the program.” A second plus was that, “it has a Spanish component.” According to SAUSP’s Dr. Bloom, “Our major mission is to train teachers in reform and standards based curriculum and instruction. *Destination Math* is absolutely on the leading edge of technology and what we knew technology could do for the teacher.”

The Results

Destination Math is proving to be very valuable in the San Antonio area. For SAUSP, Dr. Bloom notes, “We have two more years on our funding and one of the things we are really looking for is sustainability. So if districts have *Destination Math*, they’re going to have a really strong, evolving math program.” Dr. Bloom has also found that, “Because of the conceptual basis of *Destination Math*, teachers who are not strong in math improve their own math skills as they present the lessons to the children which means over time they become much better teachers.”

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