



DESTINATION



SUCCESS STORY >

FEDERAL FUNDING IN NY SUPPORTS DESTINATION READING® AND DESTINATION MATH®

The Situation

Beacon City School District has four elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, and one alternative high school. The district is struggling to meet student academic achievement goals in both reading and math. They are under a state level review for adequate yearly progress in middle school math and are working to improve elementary school reading scores.

The district initially purchased *Destination Reading* and its success prompted interest in *Destination Math*. Title I and local funds were used to purchase *Destination Reading*, and Federal Enhancing Education through Technology funding purchased *Destination Math*.

Wireless laptops were purchased specifically for the *Destination Reading* and *Destination Math* programs and are used for group or individual lessons, depending on teacher preference. "There might be four or five laptops in a room where kids are working; there might be twenty-five," said Charlie Symon, Director

of Technology. "We also have one network computer for teacher use in each classroom. So as teachers instruct, they can either bring the lesson up on the computer, which is attached to a television, or use a projector so that the entire class can see the lesson. Teachers are able to lead whole class, small group, or individual activities."

Students are totally engaged with the software, according to Symon. "It's really awesome seeing kindergartners or first or second graders with headsets on totally involved in what they're doing. Teachers love it!"

To Symon, an important feature of the courseware is the student's ability to access lessons from their home or the local library. "Students are individually given assignments based on where they need remedial help, and they can work on them from home if they have network access," said Symon.



Customer Profile

Beacon City Schools, NY
6 Schools
3400 Students
25% African American
25% Hispanic
15% Special Needs Students
48% Free and Reduce Lunch

Products and Services

Destination Reading
Destination Math
Professional Development

Tabatha Montanez loves using Destination Reading on the computers at Sargent Elementary School. Her favorite activity is finding the verbin stories. She likes Destination Reading because "It tells you stuff and I learn from it," Tabatha said. "It's fun!"

- Poughkeepsie Journal Beacon City Schools, NY

Project Goals

1. Meet the goal of the technology plan to integrate technology into the curriculum.
2. Raise reading achievement scores in elementary schools.
3. Raise math achievement scores to remove the District from the State Watch List.

Solution

Destination Reading and *Destination Math* were selected for a number of reasons. "The best part was that they allowed for a lot of flexibility, depending on how the teacher was going to design their instruction," noted Jean Parr, Deputy Superintendent for the District.

For Symon, several features were important. "One of my reasons for choosing *Destination Reading* and *Destination Math* was its portal-based software that allows access from both inside and outside the District.

Price was a factor, obviously, and the content is well done."

Another deciding feature was the Learning Management System that ties together assessment, assignments, and reporting. This allows for personalized learning. "The ability to both assign lessons and assess student progress is very important as we're trying to track students and work with them on an individual basis," reported Symon.

The Results

"It's very motivating for the kids," says Gloria Pitsley, Library Media Specialist at Sargent Elementary School. "They think it's a game, but they're actually learning phonics, fluency, and vocabulary."

Symon is so pleased with the programs that, "Our next goal is to look at *Destination Math* for the elementary schools."

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