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SUCCESS STORY >

LOUISIANA STUDENTS RAISE SCORES AN AVERAGE OF 35% AFTER USING DESTINATION MATH®

The Situation

Northwestern Elementary School serves PreK-2 students who are in the early stages of mathematics learning. Eligible for a Louisiana-funded 8(g) grant, Jennifer Marangos, Assistant Principal at Northwestern, managed the process for selection of software. She explains, "About fifteen months ago, a committee began researching educational software designed to improve student math performance for kindergarten through second grade students. After extensive research, we chose Destination Math®."

The group wanted courseware that could be consistently implemented across grade levels and classrooms, that was aligned to state standards, that taught content in a highly engaging manner, and that provided for individualized progression.

Project Goals

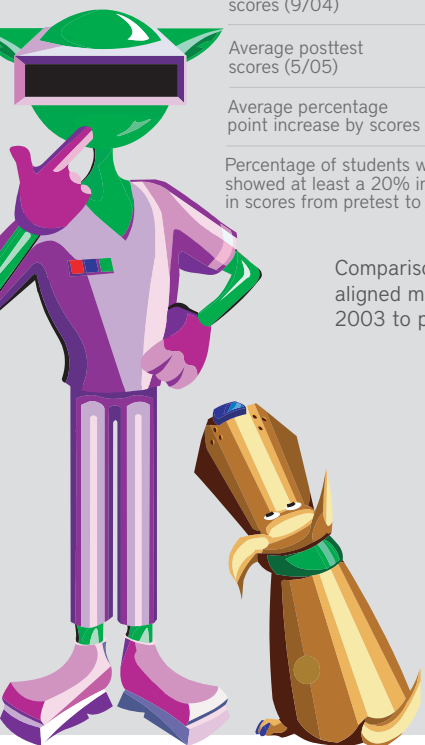
1. To provide materials for consistent instruction in mathematics
2. To raise the math achievement scores of their students

Solution

The committee looked at all available K-2 math software products and selected Destination Math because, said Marangos, "It was so well aligned with our curriculum, was very interactive and appealed to our kids, and the learning management system would help us track how our kids are doing, providing a standardized measurement of the program's effectiveness."

The Results

Northwestern Elementary instituted the Destination Math program with two days of training for all teachers



Northwestern Elementary School, Zachary, Louisiana

	K	1	2
Average pretest scores (9/04)	47%	56%	56%
Average posttest scores (5/05)	92%	84%	89%
Average percentage point increase by scores	45	28	33
Percentage of students who showed at least a 20% increase in scores from pretest to posttest	99%	80%	91%

Comparison of comprehensive, curriculum-aligned math pretests given in September 2003 to posttests given in May 2005.

<p>Customer Profile</p> <p>Northwestern Elementary School Zachary, LA 800 Students PreK-2 44% Title I 35% African American</p>	<p>Products and Services</p> <p>Destination Reading Destination Math Professional Development</p> <p>Key Benefits</p> <p>After using Destination Math for one year, scores in kindergarten increased by an average of 45%, first grade by 28%, and second grade by 33%.</p>
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The goal was to increase student achievement by an average of 20%. As demonstrated in the chart, Destination Math more than met expectations.

so that it could be used in the classrooms as well as in the lab. The school has two certified teachers in the computer lab. The kindergartners go for one 30-minute period each week. The first and second graders go to the lab twice a week for 30 minutes each. These Destination Math teachers work with the classroom teachers so they “know what skill is being addressed in the regular classroom. The Destination Math teachers can then create their lessons and assignments” to develop an individualized learning path for each student.

According to Marangos, “Teachers love it! When we had the Destination Math training, they got excited about the program and they're actually the ones who asked for [Destination Reading®].”

Students love it, too. Says Marangos, “They love the interactive nature of the program. When you go in the lab to observe, they have their little headphones on and you can see the excitement on their faces. They

are completely absorbed. They love it, and therefore we're seeing great results!”

Northwestern was interested in evaluating the success of the software in increasing student achievement. To do so, it delivered a comprehensive, curriculum-aligned math pretest in September 2004. The students were tested again at mid-year, and again in May 2005 as the posttest.

The goal of the 8(g) grant was to increase student achievement by an average of 20%. As demonstrated in the chart, Destination Math more than met their expectations.

In addition, says Marangos, “I've been very pleased. The service has been very good. They are always willing to help me with any questions I have about the courseware or its implementation.”