



ELIOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Gilroy, California

SuccessMaker®

PROFILE

School District: Gilroy Unified School District

District Enrollment: 10,115 students

School Enrollment: 550

Grades: K-5

Free/Reduced Price Lunch: 95%

Ethnicity:

- 95% Hispanic
- 4% Caucasian
- 1% African American

CHALLENGE

“When I started in 2007 no grade level had scored above 50 percent proficient in math or reading on the Academic Performance Index (API) state test,” said James Dent, principal of Eliot Elementary in Gilroy, California. “We were the lowest performing school in the district and close to receiving the designation to restructure from the state board of education.”

More than 70 percent of the students at Eliot Elementary are English language learners and face many difficulties while trying to be successful at school. A majority of students have no formal educational training prior to starting school and have limited support at home to reinforce what is taught.

Principal Dent wanted to implement a solution at the school to give all of his students the resources they needed to reach grade level proficiency in math and reading. He wanted something with a high level of flexibility and the capability to accumulate student performance data.

SOLUTION

In 2007, using Title I federal grant funds, Eliot Elementary purchased Savvas’ digital courseware programs SuccessMaker® and Waterford Early Learning™, both designed to provide personalized learning to build reading and math skills.

Waterford Early Learning is used by kindergarten and 1st grade students to build and reinforce foundational skills for reading and math. These students access the digital courseware daily in the computer lab as well as on computers in their classroom individually or in group activities.

Continues

“The lessons are personal. No two students have the same arrangement of problems in one sitting. It is fantastic, differentiated, instruction. I can look at a row of computers and see a 2nd grader working on a kindergarten level problem, while another student is figuring out the parameter of a hexagon.”

“The kids know they are learning, yet through these innovative programs they learn to love learning.”

“I check my students’ Daily Progress Report after every session. If a student has low scores, I can pull them aside and give them the attention they may need.”

“All of my students that are a 3.0 level in math (on SuccessMaker) get 4’s and 5’s on the California Standards Test (CST). It has been a perfect indicator for me.”

— Jessica Chessani
2nd grade teacher

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SAVVAS



SOLUTION (Continued)

Each 2nd through 5th grade student uses SuccessMaker every day for a minimum of 20 minutes. The courseware delivers the appropriate math and reading instruction based upon each student's individual needs.

At least once a week teachers review reports on student progress. Teachers are able to identify the skills where students need more help and then use this information to determine how best to review these skills, either individually, as a group exercise or by scheduling students more time on the program utilizing customized lessons.

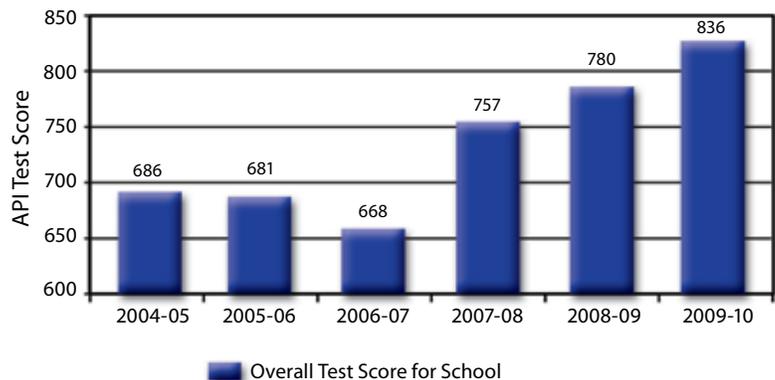
RESULTS

In three years Eliot Elementary School went from the lowest performing to the second highest performing school in their school district, raising their API score more than 80 points the first year. They had the highest level of gains for all schools in Santa Clara County, with their score rising from 668 to 757.

"During our second year with SuccessMaker and Waterford Early Learning we raised our API score by 23 points reaching 780, the fourth highest in our district. During our third year of using the programs we gained another 56 points to reach a score of 836. Our growth over the past three years has made us one of the top 10 improved schools in our county and we have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for three years in a row. We have also become the top school of 100 similar schools throughout California," explains Principal Dent. The chart below illustrates the progress Eliot Elementary School has made over three years.

In 2011 the federal government recognized Eliot Elementary School with the Title I Academic Achievement Award.

Eliot Elementary School API Test Scores Overall Scores from 2004-2010



"It takes me some time to get to know and understand the ability level of all the students in my class. Right away SuccessMaker helps me with initial placement.

"I can't be with each student individually at all times. SuccessMaker ensures that while I am working with a student or a small group of students, the others will be getting on level review and tutorials.

"The data that comes from SuccessMaker is an effective way to help me drive my instruction and understand the needs of my students.

"They truly enjoy working at their individual levels. They feel successful yet challenged."

— Heather Parsons
3rd grade teacher

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