



HARLEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Baytown, Texas

SuccessMaker®
ENTERPRISE

“SuccessMaker has been an integral part of our instructional program at Harlem Elementary. SuccessMaker Enterprise provides a vital intervention for all of our at-risk students. All the students who spend time on SuccessMaker Enterprise make gains on their Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills scores. We would not have achieved a Texas Education Agency ‘exemplary’ rating if not for the interventions that SuccessMaker Enterprise provided for our students.”

— **Michael Wahl**
principal
Harlem Elementary

“SuccessMaker Enterprise is a great program for all students and especially for special education students. It allows special education students to work at their instructional levels in reading and math. They also experience success while remediating areas where they have deficits. Also, since my students enjoy computers, they think they are just having fun.”

— **Cara Skinner**
4th grade special education teacher

PROFILE

School District: Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District

District Enrollment: 20,235 students

School Enrollment: 860 students

Grades: PreK-5

Free/Reduced Price Lunch: 63%

Ethnicity:

- 40% Hispanic
- 34% African American
- 22% Caucasian
- 3% Asian
- 1% Other

CHALLENGE

The Goose Creek CISD superintendent set a lofty goal for Harlem Elementary—raise performance to a level on par with some of the best schools in the nation. The school’s dedicated faculty and staff worked hard toward that goal, providing a quality education for their students. However, they were still experiencing difficulty reaching many of their at-risk students to help them achieve year-to-year grade-level objectives.

Harlem Elementary was searching for a solution that would boost the performance of their at-risk students while enhancing the education of their overall student population. They were striving to engage multiple grade levels and discover a broad range of functionality to improve student state test scores in math, reading and science.

SOLUTION

Using Title I federal grant funds, Harlem Elementary purchased SuccessMaker® Enterprise in 2004 and has been using the program to specifically target their 3rd through 5th grade students. Roughly 430 students per year use the computerized courseware program.

Teachers use SuccessMaker Enterprise as a tool for response to intervention with their students who have been identified as at-risk. During a daily forty-five minute session, the students work on reading, math and science skills. Teachers determine the level and/or specific skill each student needs to improve, and the courseware individualizes each student’s session to meet his or her academic needs.

Continues



SOLUTION (Continued)

In addition all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes visit the computer lab twice a week for thirty minutes. Each student is assessed on the program and works at his or her individual level and pace. Teachers also pull weekly reports from the computer lab and can adjust instruction in their classroom or program the courseware to help students focus on areas where they need help in math, reading and science. The use of the program for these students enriches their academic experience.

RESULTS

"Teachers closely monitored our students' report card grades along with their six-week assessments to determine if they were making progress," explains Harlem Elementary Principal Michael Wahl. "We also used data from SuccessMaker Enterprise to determine whether students had mastered particular skills. We found that the program was able to fill in learning gaps for all of the children. We also used results from the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test to monitor progress of our at-risk students.

"When we started using SuccessMaker Enterprise, our state rating was 'academically acceptable' and had never been higher. After rotating students through the program, Harlem achieved 'recognized' status for the first time ever in 2006-07 and kept that rating in 2007-08. Then during the 2008-09 school year, we earned a Texas Education Agency (TEA) rating of 'exemplary' for the first time in the history of the school. SuccessMaker Enterprise combined with a good curriculum and excellent classroom instruction helped us earn this rating."

The progress outlined by Michael Wahl is illustrated in the graph below, which shows the overall TAKS test scores of 3rd through 5th grade students in math, reading and science.

"Since our campus integrated SuccessMaker Enterprise, our students' learning and academic success have skyrocketed. This year we are an exemplary campus, and SuccessMaker Enterprise played a part in our success. Our students are excited about using the program, and teachers love the reports that show how our students are progressing in reading, math and science. SuccessMaker Enterprise provides a differentiated approach to learning and at the same time captures students' interests with its innovative format. It is definitely a great tool for the 21st century learner!"

— Erica Navejar
language arts instructional facilitator

"I am always looking for new supplemental instruction that will add growth and motivation to my students' reading comprehension skills. SuccessMaker Enterprise is an added resource that I am able to utilize that meets all my students' learning needs. I am able to set the program to begin on each student's reading level, and the program will adjust itself as the student progresses. It also gives me the opportunity to keep track of each child's improvements through individual progress reports."

— Kristie Fudge
3rd grade language arts teacher

Harlem Elementary Math, Reading and Science TAKS Scores 2005 - 2009

