



# ANDREW JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Desert Sands Unified School District  
Indio, California*

**SuccessMaker®**  
ENTERPRISE

*"Students, teachers, and parents continue to be excited about SuccessMaker, and it has proven to be a valuable addition to their daily routine. It's a part of our everyday language."*

— *Mick Wilhite*  
*principal*

## PROFILE

**School District:** Desert Sands Unified School District

**District Enrollment:** 25,000 students

**School Enrollment:** 660 students

**Grades:** K-6

**Free/Reduced Price Lunch:** 86 percent

**Ethnicity:**

- 58% Hispanic
- 35% Caucasian
- 7% Other

## CHALLENGE

The students needed help bridging the digital divide and building skills in reading and mathematics. The school also needed to raise students' scores and provide them with access to computers both during and after the school day as well as set goals for future success.

## SOLUTION

Andrew Jackson Elementary's success began in November 1998 with a grant from the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program and a pilot of SuccessMaker Enterprise software.

The administration and staff at Andrew Jackson Elementary were thrilled to receive a grant from the 21st Century Community Learning Center program. Supported by the U.S. Department of Education, the program enables school districts to fund after-school community education centers in public schools. Andrew Jackson was the perfect candidate.

"We know that our students don't have computers in their homes," said Dr. Nancy Hill, principal of Andrew Jackson Elementary. "If we don't provide our kids with access to technology, they'll fall into the digital divide."

In November 1998, all 15 elementary schools in the Desert Sands Unified School District participated in a pilot program administered by the California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP). Each school tried out different educational software, and Andrew Jackson was assigned to pilot SuccessMaker Enterprise. "We all committed to using whatever CTAP chose at

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## SuccessMaker® ENTERPRISE

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### **SOLUTION (Continued)**

the end of the pilot," said Dr. Hill. "But we would have died if they had taken SuccessMaker Enterprise away from us." After evaluating all the programs, CTAP chose SuccessMaker Enterprise and implementation began in earnest.

#### **Building a Lab for the Whole Community**

Andrew Jackson Elementary wanted a place where students could go both during and after school to practice what they had learned in class. "We know that the children at Andrew Jackson don't read or do math at home," said Dr. Hill. "No matter how good the teaching is, if kids don't practice they don't learn at the same rate."

The 40-computer lab at Andrew Jackson is open every day after school from 4 - 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. "Kids love the computer work," said Dr. Hill. "And the lab is a safe, supervised place to go after school. We see kids who come every day, including Saturday."

The lab is also popular with parents in the community. Two nights a week, an ESL class is held from 6 - 8 p.m. Jackson was able to use money from Proposition 227 to purchase Pearson Digital software. Adults use the lab from 7 - 8 p.m. to practice on SuccessMaker Enterprise software. "We made a commitment to the parents to get adult education software in the lab," said Dr. Hill. "It's very popular because parents at all levels of ESL are able to benefit from the software."

#### **One Cycle for Every Child, Every Day**

Each student at Andrew Jackson Elementary uses SuccessMaker Enterprise for one reading cycle and one mathematics cycle each day. Dr. Hill stressed the importance of committing time to the program and commented, "It takes a staff that believes in the power of technology to help students succeed."

The state of California also provides funds for tutoring students who are not meeting standards. However, the state requires that at least twelve students must be in the tutorial. To help teachers tutor such a large group at once, Andrew Jackson holds tutoring sessions in which a teacher will teach half the group while the other half uses SuccessMaker Enterprise for reinforcement. The two halves then swap. "The combination of directed instruction and computer work makes it manageable to tutor a large group of students," said Dr. Hill, "and the kids love the computer work."

#### **Empowering Students to Set Goals**

To help students track their progress, teachers at Andrew Jackson Elementary began using the reporting functions of SuccessMaker Enterprise. "The most successful classrooms use the reports to help students set goals," said Dr. Hill. "Kids are competing with themselves and have become very goal oriented."

During family conferences, students present their own portfolios to parents. According to Dr. Hill, "One of the most powerful reports for parents is when their child tells them, 'This is where I am, this is where I need to be, and this is how much practice I need.'"

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## RESULTS

After a year of using SuccessMaker Enterprise, students saw measurable gains at all grade levels.

Third, fourth, and fifth graders at Andrew Jackson Elementary have used SuccessMaker Enterprise since November 1998. Each student from grades K-6 now uses SuccessMaker Enterprise for one reading cycle and one mathematics cycle each day. “We know that SuccessMaker Enterprise has made a difference in test scores,” said Dr. Hill.

In STAR testing, students improved from the 18th percentile in reading as fourth-graders in 1999 to the 26th percentile as fifth-graders in 2000. The same group of students jumped from the 39th percentile in 1999 to the 45th percentile in 2000 in mathematics. In 1998, before SuccessMaker Enterprise was implemented throughout the school, those students were scoring in the 12th percentile in reading and the 24th percentile in mathematics as third-graders.

Students in grades two through five have seen substantial improvements in their National Percentile Rank in reading and mathematics from 1998-2000.

### STAR Reading Results

	Grade 2 NPR	Grade 3 NPR	Grade 4 NPR	Grade 5 NPR
2000	34%	26%	26%	26%
1999	21%	23%	18%	24%
1998	17%	12%	16%	16%

### STAR Mathematics Results

	Grade 2 NPR	Grade 3 NPR	Grade 4 NPR	Grade 5 NPR
2000	62%	38%	42%	45%
1999	29%	40%	39%	28%
1998	25%	24%	27%	33%

According to Andrew Jackson’s current principal, Mick Wilhite, “Students, teachers, and parents continue to be excited about SuccessMaker, and it has proven to be a valuable addition to their daily routine. It’s a part of our everyday language.”