



ROSEVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Roseville, Michigan

Waterford
Early
Learning™

SuccessMaker®

PROFILE

School District: Roseville Community School District

District Enrollment: 5,800 students

Number of Schools: 12

Grades: K-12

Free/Reduced Price Lunch: 65%

Ethnicity:

- 73% Caucasian
- 18% African American
- 3% Multi-racial
- 3% Hispanic
- 2% Asian
- 1% Native American

CHALLENGE

With eight elementary schools within their district, Roseville Community Schools was faced with the challenge of an increasing number of students starting school with little or no preliminary schooling or training, and thus not prepared to start kindergarten with the knowledge they need to perform and progress with their peers. Also many elementary students who were transferring in from other districts were behind on their math and reading skills. Roseville needed a solution to close the achievement gap and enhance early intervention to help all students reach year-end grade-level objectives.

SOLUTION

Roseville Community Schools used Title II-D federal grant funds in 2007 to purchase Pearson Digital's SuccessMaker® and Waterford Early Learning™ and installed them throughout the entire district. Approximately 1,700 students a year have been able to utilize these two courseware programs. All kindergarten students learn reading, math and science skills every day using Waterford Early Learning. They receive 30 minutes per day on the program working at their own pace and on material that is currently being taught in class. "I really love the way Waterford Early Learning scaffolds all the learning that we are doing in the classroom. It reviews, it introduces new things; it comes back and revisits concepts that we did at the beginning of the year. It is nice that they have that rebuilding and revisiting of concepts," explains Kathy Clulo, kindergarten teacher.

"Waterford Early Learning is the first program we've implemented at Roseville Schools that the teachers have absolutely fallen in LOVE with. The student engagement is so high that their excitement positively changes the dynamics of the entire classroom."

— **Karen McGuire**
director of curriculum
Roseville Community Schools

"The number one thing I like about Waterford Early Learning is that it is geared toward the individual student. They are assessed using the placement feature of the program and every child is working at a different level, which is so important."

"The kids love it. They are enthusiastic, they are interested, and they are singing songs and talking excitedly about the program. Their enthusiasm is great to see."

— **Kathy Clulo**
kindergarten teacher
Fountain Elementary

Continues



SOLUTION (Continued)

Struggling 1st and 2nd grade students also use Waterford Early Learning to improve their math and reading skills. Once students have been assessed using the placement feature, the program then targets the specific areas where they need help.

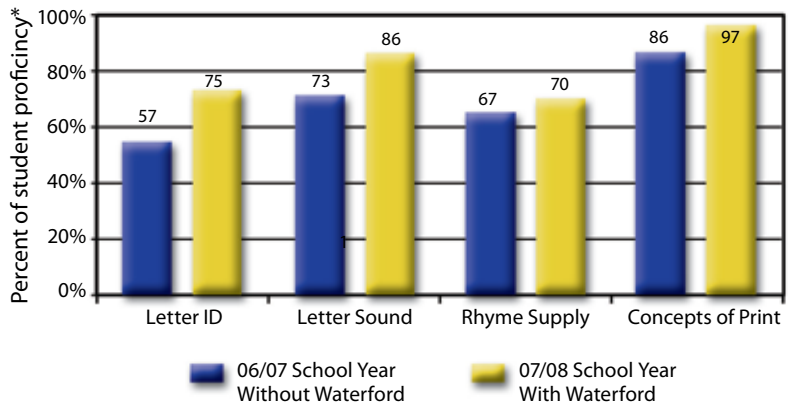
All 3rd grade students use SuccessMaker 40 minutes three to four times a week reinforcing and building their math and reading skills. Implementation of SuccessMaker continues for the 4th-6th grade students. Most teachers at the higher elementary grade levels are using SuccessMaker as a tier 2 intervention tool; however, the program will be fully utilized once all teachers have been trained. At-risk and special education K-6th grade students use both Waterford Early Learning and SuccessMaker four to five times a week.

RESULTS

The district's training and dedication have garnered great results. Despite having the second highest homeless student population in their county, all of Roseville's elementary and middle schools met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 2008-09 school year, and all elementary schools have made AYP for the past three years. In addition, the elementary schools have also received a letter grade of "A" or "B" from the state accreditation program for the past three years.

The chart below illustrates the year over year gains made in Waterford across two separate kindergarten groups in two consecutive years. The blue bar represents the historical norm, kindergarten students in 06/07 who did not use The Waterford Early Reading Program. The yellow bar represents different kindergarten students in the 07/08 school year that used The Waterford Early Reading Program after the program was implemented. All other variables remained consistent including teachers. Assessment data was obtained using the Michigan Literacy Progress Profile. Students were given a pre-test at the beginning of their kindergarten year and a post-test at the end of that year to determine results.

Year to Year Comparison Across Two Separate Kindergarten Groups



*Students who were proficient at pretest are not displayed in this chart resulting in higher total percentage of students proficient at the end of 06/07 and 07/08.

"SuccessMaker has been a great educational learning tool for our students. Often struggling students lack the confidence to take a risk in the classroom to interact or ask for further explanation from their teacher in fear that other students will become aware that they are struggling in school. I have witnessed students that have used SuccessMaker over several months gain great confidence. They have moved from the shadows to shine brightly among their peers. Nothing gives a teacher more reward than to see this type of transformation in their students.

"As an educator, I like the fact that the program provides students with an individualized learning program that is tailored to their specific academic needs, and is aligned with our state standards. I must add that the Pearson training and support staff is of the highest quality."

— **Terri Simants**
4th grade teacher
Kaiser Elementary

"Whenever I am in the classroom I see the students engrossed in Waterford Early Learning, and they find the program extremely motivating and rewarding."

— **David Van Houten**
principal
Arbor Elementary