



# LA VEGA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Waco, Texas

## PROFILE

**School District:** La Vega Independent School District

**District Enrollment:** 2,751 students

**School Enrollment:** 686 students

**Grades:** 1-3

**Economically Disadvantaged:** 87 percent

**Ethnicity:**

- 43% Hispanic
- 28% African American
- 28% Caucasian
- 1% Other

## CHALLENGE

Maintaining the status quo at La Vega Elementary School in Texas did not match their motto: *The business of La Vega Elementary is learning... handle your business. One Team, One Dream!* The collective challenge for both teachers and administrators was to raise math and reading achievement from a state standard of “recognized” to “exemplary.”

They needed to do something to assist and inspire the students to work harder and achieve a higher standing. The school’s low socioeconomic population and large percentage of English language learners made the challenge even greater. With the purchase and implementation of Pearson’s SuccessMaker Enterprise, teachers, students, and administrators began to see the results they were after and they began to “handle their business” of learning.

## SOLUTION

SuccessMaker Enterprise is used every day in classroom, small group, and computer lab instruction. La Vega put into place many incentives so that students enjoy coming to the lab and working with SuccessMaker Enterprise.

Lab Manager Nita Winget explains that La Vega’s labs are decorated in a fun way and their students really enjoy the change of atmosphere from the classroom to the lab. She adds, “The soothing theme and the tranquil music all set the scene for a good learning environment.”

As if computer learning isn’t engaging enough, La Vega also rewards students with tickets for good scores and holds weekly drawings from these reward tickets for prizes donated by the community. La Vega also holds class

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E N T E R P R I S E

*“SuccessMaker Enterprise has been a very successful tool in my classroom. I am able to use the program to reach my struggling students and my advanced students. My students love the program because it allows them to get rewards and incentives for doing their personal best. I have some students that compete with each other and some who compete with themselves to make gains on the program. There is never a dull moment for the students when they use this program. The students never get tired of reporting who has made it to a certain character on a program or letting the class know when they have made a 100!”*

*“I have enjoyed using SuccessMaker Enterprise. It has been a key component in reinforcing TAKS skills and test taking skills. With the program I am able to incorporate technology every day. I work with our lab manager with different tutorials, worksheets, and programs based upon the skills we are learning in the classroom. The best part of the program is my ability to check for understanding while my students are having fun learning.”*

— **Nika Mason**  
**third grade teacher**



## SOLUTION (Continued)

competitions where students can earn key chains with charms and beads or win popcorn parties. Teachers are also receiving incentive awards. The school has turned this unique learning opportunity into a campus-wide fun competition and they saw a big turnaround as students were excited about SuccessMaker Enterprise, and eager to win prizes.

## RESULTS

"In 2005-2006 our campus achieved an "exemplary" rating from the state of Texas for the very first time. Although we know that it was a team effort of all of the teachers and support staff on our campus, I am excited to say that with the big effort that our campus placed into SuccessMaker Enterprise the program was an instrumental part of this achievement," said Lab Manager Nita Winget.

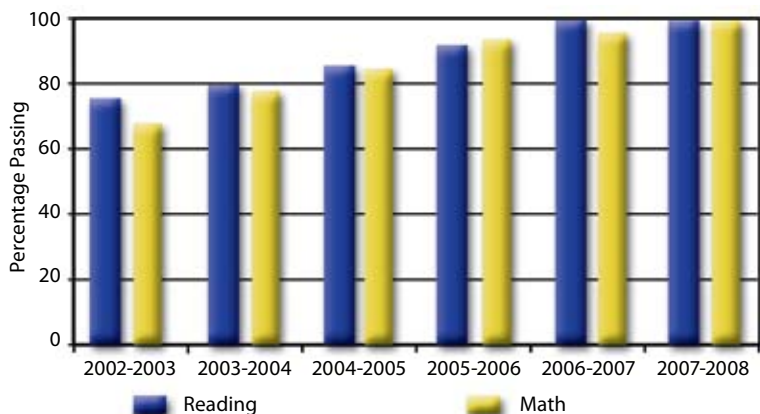
During 2006-2007 the school maintained all of its incentives and students again benefited from the learning they received with SuccessMaker Enterprise. Winget explains that students thoroughly enjoy the new animated Math Concepts & Skills 2 program and their enthusiasm has continued as they strive to reach each new level.

La Vega has achieved many of their goals with the help of SuccessMaker Enterprise including:

- The state of Texas has awarded "exemplary" status to La Vega Elementary three years in a row
- Teachers have been able to predict Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) scores and improve them with SuccessMaker Enterprise
- Gains of almost 66 percent were reported for first graders
- Gains of almost 56 percent were reported for second graders
- Gains of almost 143 percent were reported for third graders

As depicted in the graph below, TAKS scores of third grade students significantly increased by an average of over 20 percent in reading and over 35 percent in math since 2002.

## TAKS History



*"SuccessMaker Enterprise has been such a great program. It is individualized so that students are getting exactly what they need in order to achieve success. Students that are able to go above grade level expectations are able to do so, while at the same time students who struggle and need further enrichment with objectives are able to achieve that also. The name of the program definitely describes what it does; it makes success happen for students."*

— **Renee Stump**  
second grade teacher

*"SuccessMaker Enterprise cannot take the place of a teacher, but it can reinforce everything that the teacher teaches. I have been amazed that in most instances, whatever I have taught this year has shown up on SuccessMaker Enterprise, either shortly before or right after I have presented it in class. The students get so excited when we study something in class and then it shows up on SuccessMaker Enterprise and they know how to do it! Our first graders are doing things in math that the first grade teachers never dreamed they would be able to do successfully. I believe in SuccessMaker Enterprise because I have seen the results."*

— **Gayle Pullin**  
first grade teacher