

Success Brief: CA High School Exit Exam Mendez Learning Center for Math and Science

Background

The Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez Learning Center for Math and Science is one of 22 schools that are part of the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools (PLAS), a turnaround project that focuses on targeted improvement at some of the city's most impoverished, historically struggling schools. Serving approximately 360 students, 79% are classified as socioeconomically disadvantaged and 19% are classed as Limited in English Proficiency.

Implementaion

Ensuring that all of their students have the opportunity to complete UC/CSU requirements* leaves little room for intervention courses. Therefore, the Mendez faculty used Revolution K12's CAHSEE 380 program for the six Saturdays leading up to the March 2011 CAHSEE administration.

The Educator Perspective

After a week of school, students have already had a lot of direct instruction. On Saturdays, students really don't want to be there, so we wanted to mix it up, so they're not just listening to us. With Revolution K12, students were able to get hands-on practice. We did an hour of direction instruction, and an hour of Revolution K12, broken down by strands/topics. We found that the program goes along with direct instruction. We always looked at the reports and then used the diagnostic information to include the direct skills they would need – it gave us an overview of what we needed to go back and reteach. Also, students were more comfortable using the program by themselves, and so we were able walk around or sit next to them to see how they were doing."

- Trevia Banks, Teacher

The Results

- The Mendez Math and Science Center ranked #6 in terms of CAHSEE pass rate improvement (amongst all LAUSD comprehensive high schools).
- **An additional 15%** of 10th grade students passed both the Math and ELA sections of the CAHSEE (up from 45% to 60%).
- **An additional 12%** of 10th grade students passed the CAHSEE Math on their first attempt (up from 57% to 69%).
- **An additional 10%** of 10th grade students passed the CAHSEE ELA on their first attempt (up from 60% to 70%).

Mendez Learning Center for Math and Science has Sixth Best Pass Rate Improvement on High School Exit Exam



Mendez Center Achieves Dramatic Improvements in CAHSEE Pass Rates



Number of 10th grade students tested: 125 in Math and ELA (2009-10), 114 in Math and 110 in ELA (2010-11) Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest, Mendez Math and Science

* Refers to the university systems' requirements in CA for UC and CSU