

Success Brief: CA High School Exit Exam
MetWest High School

Demographics:

Grades.....	9-12
Enrollment	151
Hispanic or Latino	52.3%
Black or African American.....	36.4%
English Learners.....	13.9%
FRPM.....	67.5%

The Challenge:

MetWest High School opened in 2001 as one of the first “new, small autonomous” schools within Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) as part of an effort to address overcrowding and under-performance. Part of the Big Picture network of schools, MetWest is a campus dedicated to project-based integration, real-life applications and the ideal that learning is best accomplished via a combination of on- and off-school-site activities.

While all Big Picture schools are interested in innovative --and even radical--solutions to problems in urban education, MetWest focuses specifically on a model of internship-based education, meaning that every student is off-campus two days a week participating in programs that focus on connecting academic concepts to real world applications.

Additionally, MetWest is firmly committed to addressing individual student needs. For example, students meet with an assigned counselor during an “advisory” period for several hours per week over a two-year period, providing additional support to ensure constant and consistent guidance.

Their unique community and partnership driven approach has helped many students forge relationships with local businesses as well as larger, non-profit organizations. While it is a small school, it has already celebrated many successes – for example, a graduation rate of over 90% (compared to the 60% OUSD district average), as well as, national media attention about their targeted, personalized approach to urban education.

Yet, despite their successes, student achievement has not come easily- -at a site dedicated to life after high school and focused on the practical aspects of life after graduation, MetWest had to exceed accountability metrics and prove their innovative methods’ relevance and worth. Additionally, they had to ensure that students, who often entered 9th grade well below grade level, were able to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) and other high-stakes exams that would otherwise become barriers to future success.

**MetWest Boosts
CAHSEE Pass and
Proficiency in Math
and Reading**



The Solution:

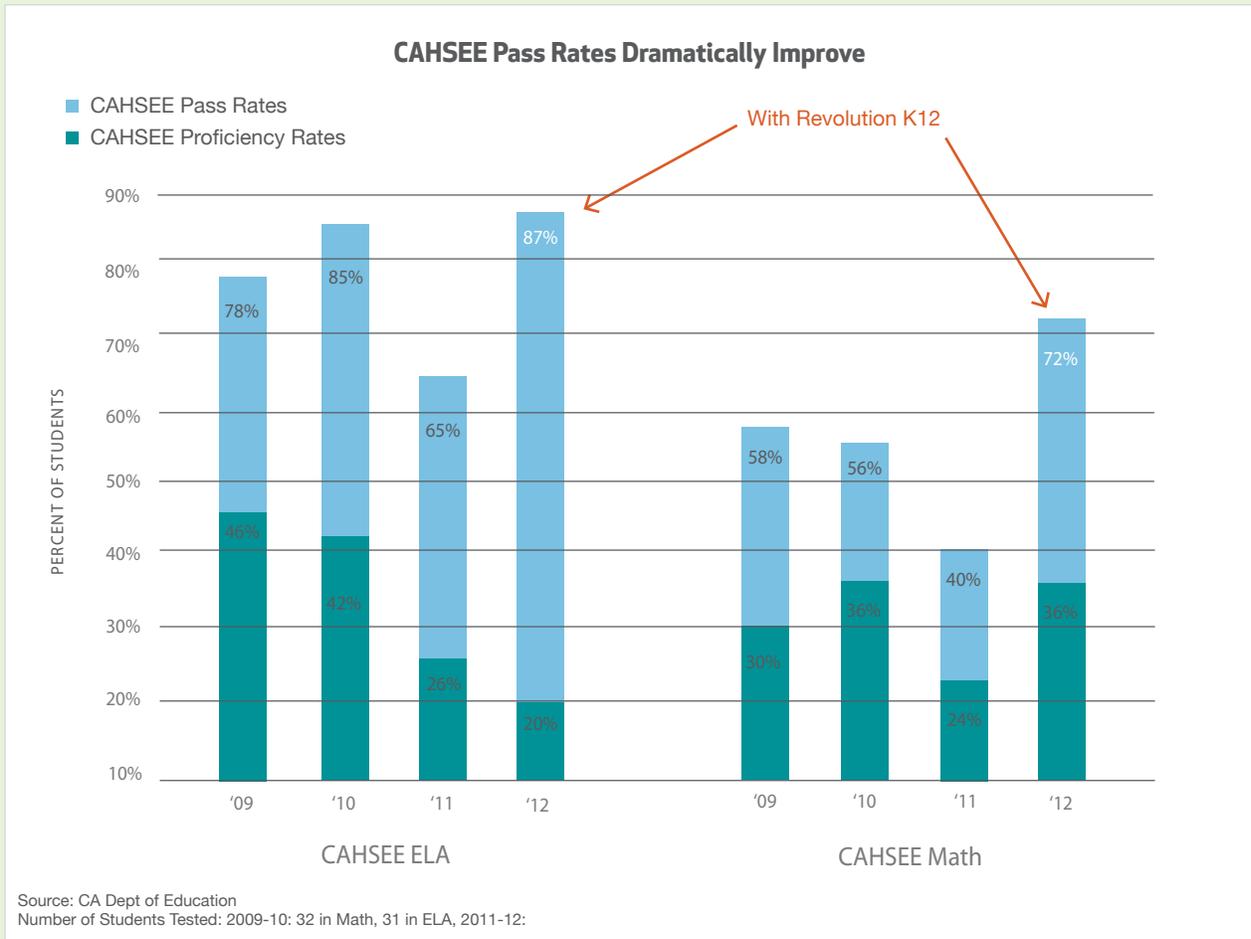
MetWest introduced Revolution K12’s programs to students in the 2010-11 on a limited scale; the handful of students using program achieved marked results relative to the overall decrease in the school’s CAHSEE scores, such that MetWest committed to a full-scale implementation in the 2011-12 school year. Principal Sean McClung personally oversaw the second-year implementation of Revolution K12’s CAHSEE 380 program, ensuring that all 10th graders used the program at least an hour a day, twice per week during their advisory periods.

The program helped students see that, in many ways, making a mistake was an opportunity to help them learn more, and students would often get excited about the number of “points” they were awarded for answering questions correctly. Principal McClung also had students journal and track their progress each day, to help them become more metacognitively aware of their learning and progress.

To provide additional encouragement, and to explicitly link high school exit exams with college entrance and success, each student was given the opportunity to earn a free license to Revolution Prep’s SAT program if they scored proficient on both sections of the CAHSEE.

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The Results:

After implementing Revolution K12's CAHSEE 380 program:

- 10th grade pass rates for the CAHSEE Math portion increased **30%**, up from 42% in 2011 to 72% in 2012.
- 10th grade pass rates for the CAHSEE English portion increased **22%**, up from 65% in 2011 to 87% in 2012.
- **5 of the 32** students passed Math and English with proficiency, scoring over 380 on **both** portions of the CAHSEE

"We are very proud of our 10th graders for their CAHSEE performance. I know the hard work they've put into the CAHSEE 380 program was a major factor in their success."

Sean McClung,
Principal