

Measuring Up to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

A Case Study on how Measuring Up e-Path helped to Improve Academic Performance in the area of Mathematics for students at William B. Travis High School.

Summary

The mission of **William B. Travis High School**, through its commitment to excellence, is to promote individual student success and responsibility within a caring and cooperative environment. Travis is home to more than 1600 students and staff.



About Austin ISD

The **Austin Independent School District** serves 82,074 students on 110 campuses. Unlike many urban school districts, AISD has a richly, diverse student community. It includes children from all economic levels and all kinds of backgrounds. Also unlike many other urban school districts, AISD enjoys widespread community support. AISD students come from homes in which 57 different native languages are spoken.

In fall, 2006, William B. Travis High School purchased Measuring Up to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for mathematics and the online component, Measuring Up e-Path, with the hopes that the program would help students improve their TAKS scores.

Measuring Up e-Path was utilized year-round by 134 students in three 6-week cycles. During each cycle, students focused on eight TEKS, and were given a weekly e-Path assessment based on those specific standards. Students practiced one standard up to four times per cycle as part of a “warm-up” and “cool-down” that included approximately three questions each. Therefore, difficult standard were reinforced up to 12 times per cycle.



Teachers assessed the students online using the Measuring Up e-Path full-length Diagnostic Practice Test (DPT). By giving students a test that mimicked the style, format, difficulty level, and length of the TAKS, teachers were able to pinpoint student weaknesses by specific TEKS. The automated prescriptive reports that teachers received from Measuring Up e-Path showed them exactly which Measuring Up worktext lessons each student needed for instruction, review, and practice of specific TEKS.

Teachers provided additional standards-based support and quickly built student proficiency using the Measuring Up worktext every Monday throughout the school year. While the worktext covers 100% of the TEKS, having the online data to show exactly which lessons each student needed to gain standards proficiency saved teachers much time and effort.

Juan Gonzalez, former Assistant Principal at William B. Travis (now the Assistant Principal at W. Charles Akins High School, which is also part of Austin ISD) said that the questions found in Measuring Up e-Path’s item bank are the most in-line with actual TAKS items, as compared to similar online assessment programs, in terms of style, format and level of difficulty. Gonzalez said that he hasn’t found another program that has as much *rigor* as Measuring Up e-Path, and he said that by utilizing all of the program components together, students were more than adequately prepared for the TAKS.

The Results

After just one year of using Measuring Up e-Path, students' TAKS scores increased by 50 points, and the number of students meeting state standards increased by 20%. As a result, **William B. Travis High School is now recognized as a Texas Education Agency Gold Performance Acknowledgement Recipient in the area of Mathematics.**

Comparable improvement awards reflect the amount of improvement in student performance in TAKS scores from one year to the next. To be eligible for the award, a school's TAKS scores must be within the top 25 percentile of a 40-member comparison group, which is made up of schools that are demographically similar. **William B. Travis was one of only 10 schools to receive the award in 2008.**

