

Measuring Up

A snapshot of how the Measuring Up Program helped Donaldson Way Elementary increase API.



About Napa Valley Unified School District

Ethnic/Racial Breakdown:	
African American:	8%
American Indian:	3%
Asian:	6%
Filipino:	22%
Hispanic:	25%
White:	27%
Multiple Backgrounds:	8%
Participants in free or reduced lunch	35%
Participants in Gifted and Talented:	7%
English Language Learners:	27%
Students with Disabilities:	11%



Summary

As the most culturally and linguistically diverse campus in the Napa Valley Unified School District (NVUSD), Donaldson Way Elementary reported a 9 point gain in the school's API score, from 544—553, for the 2007—2008 school year. Principal Janis Sparks says she attributes much of the growth in the number of students in the proficient and advanced levels to the use of the Measuring Up program.

Best Practices

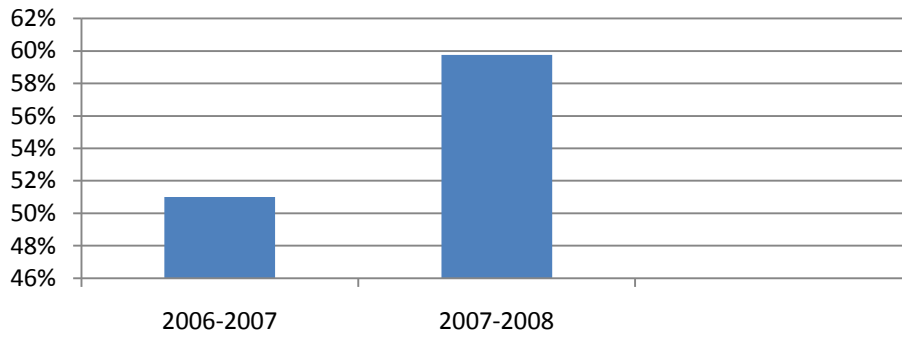
According to Sparks, Measuring Up was selected to provide cyclical review of language arts and math standards for all students (grades 2-5), and to help them practice test-taking strategies. The program was used both in the regular classroom and as part of the school's before/after-school intervention programs, to assist students who needed targeted instruction to reach proficiency standards. Measuring Up was also used for teaching specific test-taking strategies to English Language Learners, and as a result, Donaldson Way met both AMAO1 and AMAO2 State Growth Requirements for English Language Proficiency during the 2007-2008 school year.

The majority of teachers who implemented the Measuring Up program say that they used the worktext as a guided review of the tested standards, while some focused specifically on test-prep and others used the materials to provide complete standards-based instruction. Sparks says that she liked the Diagnostic Practice Tests (DPTs) included with the program, because since they closely match those administered by NVUSD, they could be used by Student Study teams for assessment purposes.

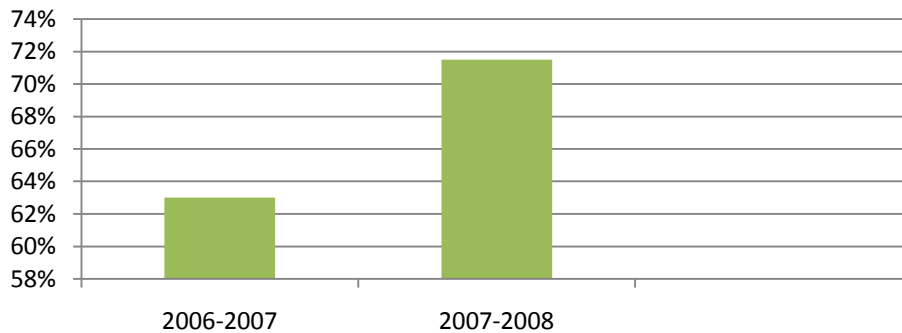
Results

Sparks says that as a result of implementing the Measuring Up Program, the number of Donaldson Way Elementary students who moved into the proficient and advanced groups increased by double digits,* and all five statistically significant subgroups met its API and AYP Growth Requirements for the 2007-2008 school year.

Donaldson Way Elementary Star Test - Gr. 2-5, Language Arts Growth in % Proficient & Advanced



Donaldson Way Elementary Star Test - Gr. 2-5, Math Growth in % Proficient & Advanced



*Third grade was the only grade-level that did not use the Measuring Up Program in a before/after school setting.

Data based on Start Test Comparison 2006—2007 and 2007—2008.