

PASSAIC CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Passaic, New Jersey

DISTRICT STATISTICS

- 19 school facilities
- 14,500 + enrollment
- Grades pre-K to 12
- Urban Setting District Factor
 - ➔ 71% Hispanic
 - ➔ 16.1% Caucasian
 - ➔ 7.5% African American
 - ➔ 4.2% Asian
- 94% free/reduced meals
- 14.9% Limited English proficient
- 16% special education

Pilot for PracTutor in Passaic City Schools proves to be highly successful for diverse student population including English Language Learners and Students with Special Needs.



SUMMARY

Passaic School District used PracTutor as a pilot program in two elementary schools to help close the gap for special education students who needed an adaptive and interactive standards based program.

The focus for this pilot was the math component of PracTutor. In the short span of the pilot, there was marked improvement and significant student growth in math.



CHALLENGES

Passaic City School District is a public school district located in Passaic County, New Jersey.

The district serves students in pre-Kindergarten through twelfth grade. Passaic is one of 31 Abbott districts statewide which are now referred to as “SDA Districts”.

The district is classified by the New Jersey Department of Education as being in District Factor Group “A”, the lowest of eight groupings based on socioeconomic characteristics.

Passaic has a very large at-risk population with 94% of the school population receiving reduced/free lunch and 100% free breakfast.

Currently the High School is rated 0% for career and college readiness.



I feel that PracTutor is an invaluable program for students. It provides the scaffolding students need to progress and succeed on their level. The program was engaging and fun for them as well. My Special Education students felt a level of accomplishment when they were able to work on their level and not reach a frustration point. The program wonderfully differentiates for each student and provides meaningful progress reports for the teachers. I was very pleased with PracTutor.



**Estee Schwab, Special
Education Teacher, LDTc.**



PRACTUTOR IMPLEMENTATION

With these daunting statistics in mind, PracTutor began a pilot program in the fall of 2013 in two of Passiac's elementary schools; Thomas Jefferson School #1 and Mario Drago School #3.

Fourth and Fifth grade classrooms were chosen with Special education students and General Education students represented.

Two Common Core standards were chosen as the focus standards for the pilot.

One class (Estee Schwab) chose to use the program for intervention because of the level of student math proficiency for that class.

The results were highly encouraging, despite the limited time allotted for program use:

Results achieved

Class	In Class (test time) (hrs:mins)	At Home (test time) (hrs:mins)	Av. Class Growth (test scores)	Total PracTutor Sessions in lab and class
School 1 - Grade 4 - Dwayne Sheppard	1:27	0:14	+20%	5
School 1 - Grade 4 - Paula Altman Clark	1:18	1:04	+28%	8
School 1 - Grade 5 - Estee Schwab	1:00	0:14	+3%	5
School 1 - Grade 5 - Jennifer Mulligan	0:38	0:00	+20%	3
School 3 - Grade 4 - Jamie LaScala	0:57	0:00	+19%	4
School 3 - Grade 4 - Irene Jankowski	0:53	0:22	+16%	4
School 3 - Grade 5 - Leandra Ragone	0:51	0:06	+17%	4
School 3 - Grade 5 - Beverly Carey	1:06	0:57	+31%	5

Total time on PracTutor would be 2-5 times the time spends on only tests.

The classes selected for the pilot worked on PracTutor in the computer lab and also in rotation with students' Chrome Book schedule.

PracTutor offers a Common Core Curriculum standards based program that is web-based and accessible through iPad, Chrome and Android platforms.



PRACTUTOR IN FUTURE PRACTICE

"Based on the results of the pilot, I feel that PracTutor would be the solution we need to see success in our population of students. Our students need the guided practice, scaffolded interventions and use of manipulatives that PracTutor offers in their program. They offer so much more than what I have seen in other programs, as well as providing support in Spanish for our ELL students. I hope to see the program roll out to the entire district, in Math and Language Arts, by September to start the year off right!" - **says Schwab**






I was impressed with the level of commitment and support the PracTutor Team provided us with during the pilot. My class was highly engaged and working in the ideal learning environment with reinforced practice, helpful videos, and clear explanations for support. Reports are easily generated to show progress, performance, and growth for each Core Curriculum Standard. That is a big help especially because of the challenges we are facing with the transition to the new standards. My class loved using PracTutor. I could see it being used both for enrichment and for intervention. "



says a fifth grade teacher

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