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To whom it may concern:

We are in our first year of use with the Ascend Math Program and thus far, we have been pleased with the results. We are anxiously awaiting the end of school year results to be able to compare both internal and external high stakes math assessments to look at overall progress of students. However, we do have individual student data, based on the use of the Ascend Math Program assessments that shows excellent growth of students.

My name is Melissa Yapo and I am the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for the Agua Fria Union High School District. This being my first year in this role, I examined the AIMS data from previous years from our district as well as other similar districts. I noticed that we had a great need for additional support in mathematics based on our test scores. Therefore, I went to other districts, "A" labeled districts, to see what they were using as support for math interventions. I visited the Glendale Union High School District and learned that they also use the Ascend program and their scores, with similar demographics to our schools, were much higher on the AIMS test. I also took a team of teachers to Youngker High School, in the Buckeye Union High School District, to observe classrooms using the Ascend Program and had the opportunity to speak with an administrator, who was a former math teacher, regarding their implementation of the program.

We have utilized the Ascend Program at all four of our comprehensive high schools this school year in our Algebra Extension class. This class is conducted in a "centers" model, utilizing small groups, teacher lead instruction, and individual student work on the computer with the Ascend Program. Students complete the assessment through the program which then creates an individualized learning plan for the student based on his/her needs. We have seen students grow 1, 2 and even 3 grade levels within the span of 8 months. There are many reports that are easily accessible to teachers and administrators. We are also utilizing the program in conjunction with after school tutoring efforts for students who have not yet passed AIMS at some of our schools.

It is important to note that the customer service has been excellent. Anytime we call, for assistance in any matter, we are always provided with immediate and professional service. It is my pleasure to recommend the Ascend Math Program.

Sincerely,

Melissa Yapo  
Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
Agua Fria Union High School District