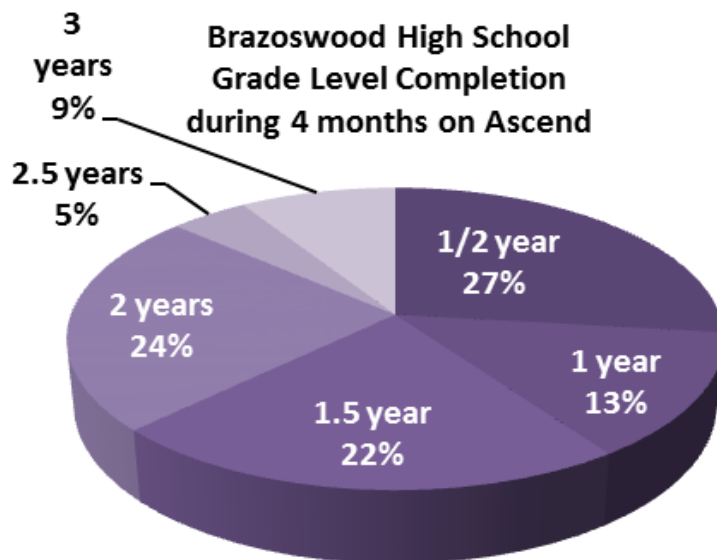


The Challenge:

Like so many other school districts around the country, Brazosport Independent School District (ISD) in Texas was struggling with ensuring that its ninth-grade students started their high school careers with the foundation in math skills necessary to tackle Algebra and higher level math.

Many students were entering their freshman year with significant gaps in their skills and had not passed the math portion of the state assessment, the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), for several years. Recognizing that research shows that students who fail Algebra in ninth grade are at a significantly higher risk of dropping out of school, district leaders knew that they



needed a proven intervention program to help students fill the gaps and be on track for success in high school, careers and higher education.

They turned to Ascend Math, a complete math intervention program. Ascend combines continuous assessment, targeted instruction, prescriptive tutorials and powerful reporting tools to give students a direct route to improved math performance. Research demonstrates that Ascend Math closes math gaps of up to two grade levels in a semester. (*see chart to the left*)

The Solution:

Located on the Gulf Coast, Brazosport ISD serves 13,000 students from a number of nearby small communities. More than 50 percent of Brazosport students are minority, and many are English language learners. While Brazosport is a district that is proud of its educational excellence – 10 of its elementary schools have been named “exemplary,” as have both of its high schools – students continued to be weak in math achievement year after year.

Yet, just increasing the amount of time that students were spending practicing math was not producing the improvement that was so critically needed. District leaders chose Ascend Math for the intensive instructional math intervention that would put their students back on track.

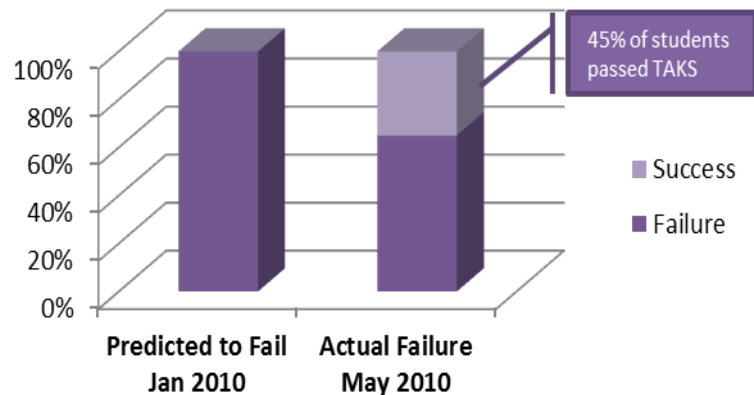
Judy Senter, the district’s Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, said teachers particularly appreciate that Ascend Math is a complete math intervention solution. *“It begins by diagnosing students’ strengths and weaknesses and then prescribes targeted instruction and ongoing assessment.”*

She warns that it takes time and focus to get students back on track, so students must use the program at least three times per week. *“They didn’t become deficient overnight, and they aren’t going to recover overnight,”* she said.

Faculty and administration at Brazoswood High School particularly embraced the new intervention program and have seen the district’s most significant improvement in math skills. Implementation began with special-education students in Algebra I, and expanded to students in a credit-recovery course. Students are using Ascend Math during their regular math class time each day and in an afterschool lab for 50 minutes, two to four times per week. They typically spend six to 12 weeks learning with Ascend Math and then return to regular classroom Algebra, poised to succeed.

Results:

At Brazoswood High School, one teacher had 58 general and special-education students, none of whom had passed the math on the TAKS in recent years. *“That meant, sadly,”* said Senter, *“that 100 percent were predicted to fail the 2010 assessment. After just four months of learning with Ascend Math, 45 percent of those students passed the high-stakes test.”*



In addition, 60 percent of students realized achievement gains of one-and-a-half grade levels in that short amount of time, and 38 percent saw remarkable gains of two or more grades during the same timeframe.

“These students lacked the basic skills to do the content work, and needed to close the gaps before they could move forward,” said Brazoswood High School associate principal Ron Redden. *“Ascend moves them past the hurdle. It’s absolutely stunning to see how quickly they’re working through their lessons and seeing success. Students who had never had success in math are sailing through the state assessment.”*

Can We Help You?

For an online, interactive demo and information about our free preview program, please visit:

www.ascendmath.com

or call us toll free at
(877) 843-0277