

EFFICACY BRIEF

A Study of the Impact of Apex Learning Digital Curriculum on Original Credit Student Achievement

Dallas Independent School District

October 2016



Summary

One high school in the Dallas Independent School District (Dallas ISD), referred to as OHS to maintain confidentiality, uses Apex Learning digital curriculum to personalize learning and enhance classroom instruction for original credit students. This study examines the impact of using Apex Learning digital curriculum in two distinct original credit implementations at OHS during the 2014–2015 school year.

The first program was a Blended Learning Pilot in one English III classroom. Teachers used Apex Learning Comprehensive Courses in a year-long Blended Learning Pilot designed to personalize learning for original credit students by enhancing traditional instruction with digital curriculum content. Students enrolled in the Blended Learning Pilot classroom used Comprehensive Courses throughout the entire school year and completed the ACP English III fall and spring semester exams.

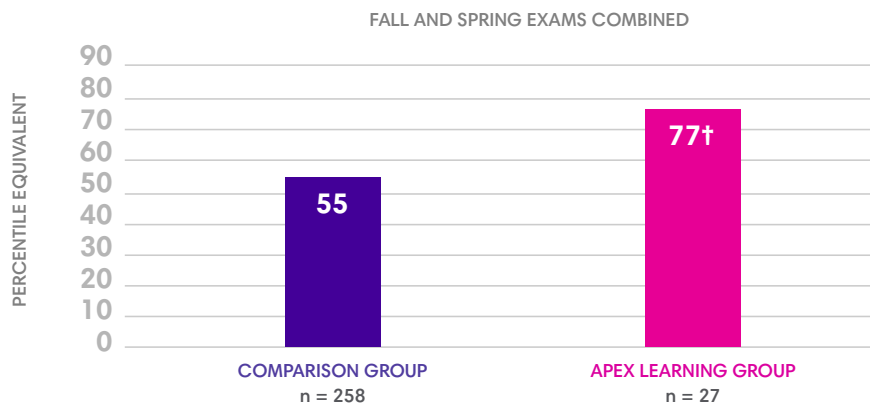
The second program was a Test Preparation Program. OHS used Apex Learning Texas-specific Tutorials to support original credit students enrolled in Algebra II. Students enrolled in Algebra II used Texas Algebra II Tutorials throughout the second semester to deepen content mastery and prepare for the Dallas ISD Assessment of Course Performance (ACP) Algebra II spring semester exam.

Results

The average score on end-of-semester exams for students using Apex Learning Courses is equivalent to 22 percentile points greater than students not using Apex Learning Courses.

FIGURE 1:

Average¹ ACP English III Standardized Scores by Group: Blended Learning Pilot



†Statistically significant. Sig. p<.01, ES=.53

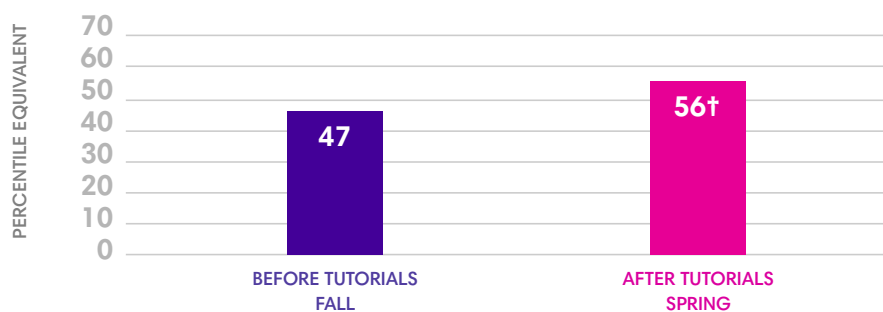
¹ Means adjusted for the following covariates: age, grade, gender, minority, limited English proficiency, special education and talented and gifted status, economic disadvantage, at-risk status, HIPPY participation, last year retention, and semester exam.

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The average score on the spring exam is equivalent to 9 percentile points greater after using Tutorials than the average fall exam, administered before using Tutorials (ES=.24, $p<.01$). Figure 2 shows the average scores on the ACP Algebra II semester exams before and after using Tutorials.

FIGURE 2:

Average ACP Algebra II Standardized Scores Before and After Using Tutorials:
Test Preparation Program



† Statistically significant. Sig. $p<.01$, ES=.24, $n=69$

The Apex Learning Solution

Students using Apex Learning Comprehensive Courses in the Blended Learning English III classroom performed significantly better on ACP exams than students enrolled in the English III classes not using Apex Learning Courses. After using Tutorials, the average Algebra II performance of original credit students on the spring end-of-semester exam improved significantly from the fall end-of-semester exam. The results of this support that students learned more and performed better when using Apex Learning digital curriculum. Now that's the definition of a successful solution.

To view the entire study, visit: <http://www.apexlearning.com/al/dallas-original-credit-efficacy-study.pdf>



More Learning Happens

Apex Learning puts rigorous, standard-based curriculum within reach for all students—from those struggling to those capable of acceleration—to prepare them for the next course, the next stage in their education, work and life. Schools use Apex Learning digital curriculum because it is proven that more learning happens with the powerful, actionable data that gives educators insight into student performance, and the personalization and engagement students need to succeed. During the 2015–2016 school year, there were more than three million enrollments in Apex Learning Comprehensive Courses for original credit and credit recovery and Adaptive Tutorials for intervention, remediation, and to prepare for high-stakes assessments. Headquartered in Seattle, Apex Learning is accredited by AdvancEd and its courses are approved for National Collegiate Athletic Association eligibility.

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