

EFFICACY BRIEF

Back on Track: The Impact of Apex Learning Courses on Student Achievement and Graduation Rate

Houston Independent School District, TX

January 2018



Increased Graduation Rate

↑ 8.6

Percentage Points

Decreased Dropout Rate

↓ 3.3

Percentage Points

State Exams

32%
More Likely

To Achieve Proficiency

Summary

Apex Learning Courses had a significant, positive impact on Grad Lab participants' academic outcomes.

In 2010, Houston Independent School District launched Grad Labs, a program utilizing Apex Learning, for at-risk high school students to earn credits needed for graduation.

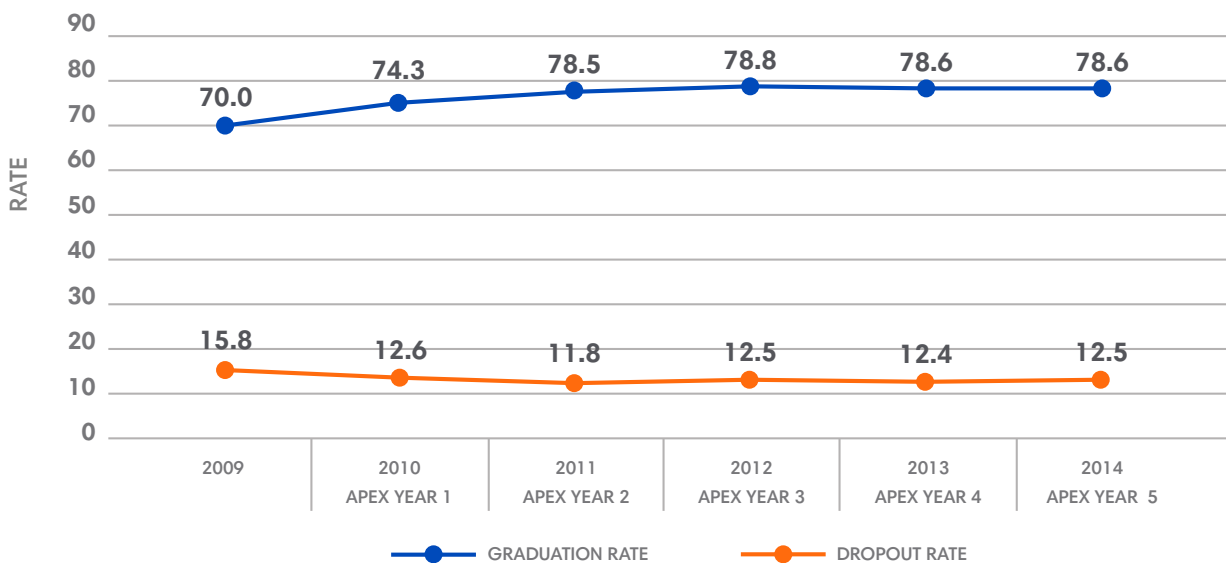
Grad Labs were implemented in high schools districtwide. Students who failed three or more courses in a previous semester, had excessive absences, were retained while in high school, or dropped out and wanted to return to school could complete Apex Learning Courses for credit from a school computer lab and/or from home. Between 1,374 to 6,711 students used Apex Learning Courses each year. Apex Learning Courses had a significant, positive impact on Grad Lab participants' academic outcomes.

Results

Use of Apex Learning Courses resulted in improved HISD graduation and dropout rates.

Compared to the year prior to adopting Apex Learning Courses, the graduation rate improved by **8.6 percentage points** and the dropout rate fell by **3.3 percentage points** (Figure 1). Nearly one-third of HISD graduates used Apex Learning.

FIGURE 1

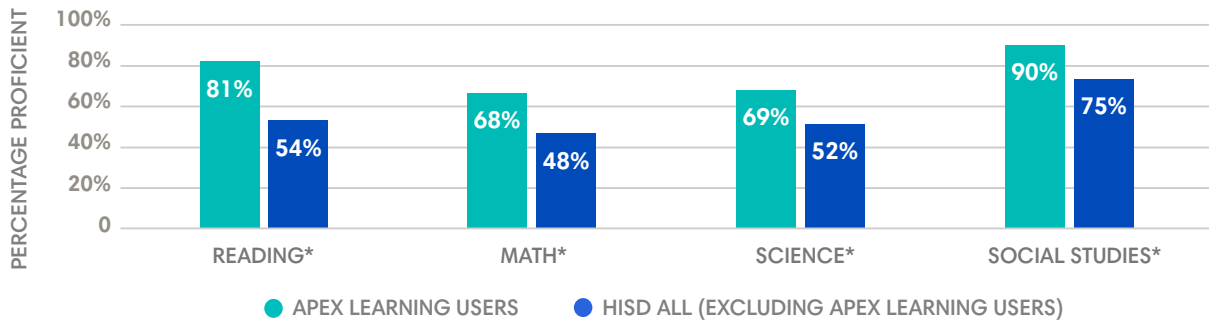


Source: HISD Graduation and Dropout Analysis Report 2013–2014, August 2015

Students completing Apex Learning Courses were as likely or more likely to pass state assessments compared to students completing courses in traditional classrooms.

Students completing Apex Learning Courses achieved overall proficiency on the TAKS retake assessments at a rate **46% greater** than students completing HISD courses in traditional classrooms settings (Figure 2).

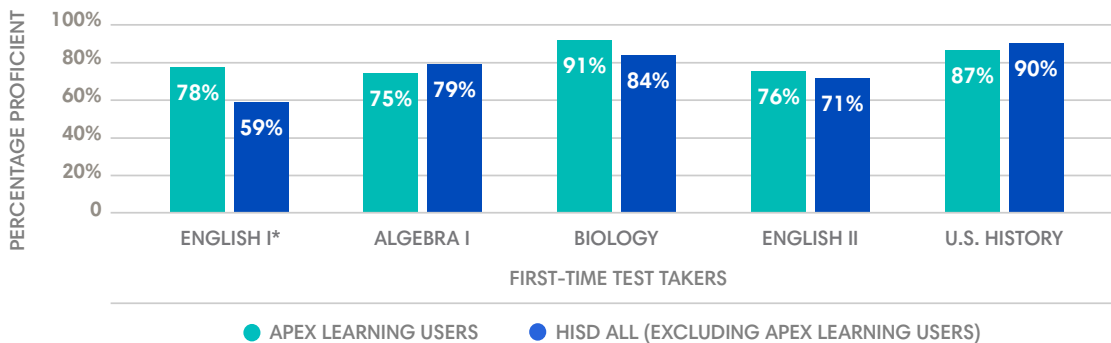
FIGURE 2



*Significant $p < .00$

Students completing Apex Learning Courses were **32% more likely** to achieve proficiency on the English I STAAR/EOC assessment than students completing HISD courses in traditional classrooms settings, and were just as likely to achieve proficiency on all other assessments (Figure 3).

FIGURE 3



*Significant $p < .00$

To view the entire study, go to <https://cdn.apexlearning.com/al/houston-grad-labs-efficacy-study.pdf>



More Learning. Better Outcomes.

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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