



# At-Risk Student Performance on State EOC Assessments On Par with Original Credit Student Performance in Sarasota County Schools Year 2

Sarasota County Schools, FL

March 2017



## Summary

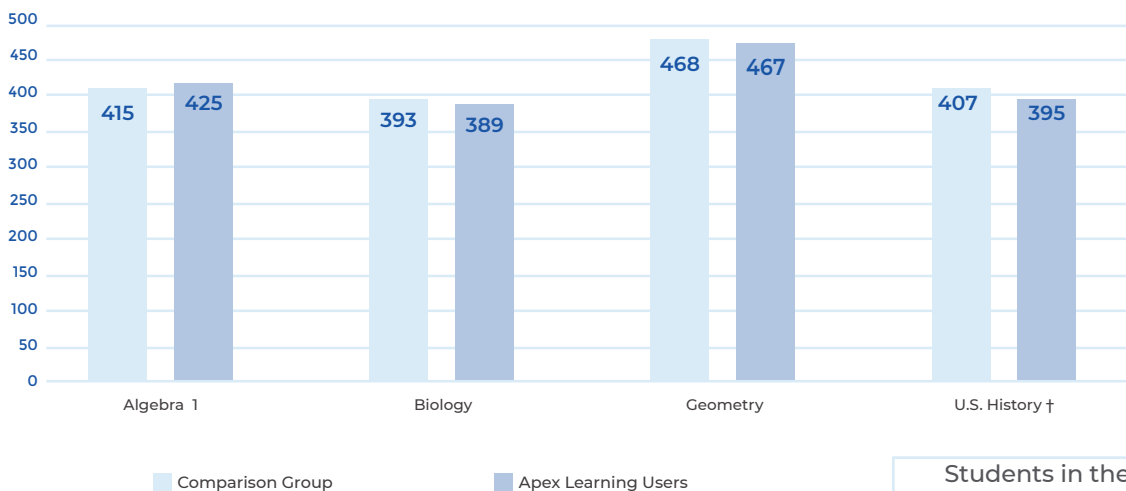
Beginning school year 2010-2011, Sarasota County Schools (SCS) adopted Apex Learning Comprehensive Courses for use in its Performance Based Diploma (PBD) Program, an alternative education program designed to serve students at risk of dropping out of high school or not graduating at the end of four years. The goal of PBD is to give at-risk students the opportunity to master course content at their own pace, earn course credits, and graduate college- and career-ready instead of dropping out of school. Together, Apex Learning and Sarasota County Schools examined Apex Learning course records and state assessment results from the 2014-2015 school year to assess the impact of Apex Learning Courses on PBD Program outcomes including student achievement on state assessments and credits recovered.

## Results

*Students in the PBD program completing Apex Learning Comprehensive Courses for original credit or credit recovery performed the same on EOC assessments as similar students completing courses for original credit in traditional classrooms.*

During the 2014-2015 school year, 1,706 students participating in the PBD program attempted 5,998 Apex Learning Comprehensive Course enrollments. Seventy-one percent of enrollments (4,227 out of 5,998) were completed by 1,226 students with a passing grade earning a total of 2,490 credits. The percent of credits earned for Courses attempted ranged from 63.3% to 81.0% by subject. Table 1 shows the number of enrollments completed and withdrawn, and number of credits attempted and earned by subject for students participating in the PBD program. Table 3 in the appendix shows Apex Learning Course usage characteristics for enrollments completed by PBD participants.

Figure 4:  
Average EOC scale score by subject and Apex Learning use



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Students in the PBD program earned  
**71%**  
Attempted credits needed for graduation



## Conclusion

In 2014-2015 PBD participants using Apex Learning Comprehensive Courses for original credit and credit recovery achieved similar average scores and pass rates as students completing courses for original credit in traditional classroom settings on EOC assessments including Algebra I, Geometry, and Biology. Additionally, students participating in the PBD program earned 71% of attempted credits needed for graduation, successfully completing 4,227 Apex Learning Comprehensive Course enrollments with a passing grade.

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