

 Measuring Up.

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Helps Improve
Academic Performance
in Mathematics at William
B. Travis High School



Research

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About Austin ISD

The **Austin Independent School District** serves 82,074 students on 110 campuses. Unlike many urban school districts, AISD has a richly, diverse student community. It includes children from all economic levels and all kinds of backgrounds. Also unlike many other urban school districts, AISD enjoys widespread community support. AISD students come from homes in which 57 different native languages are spoken.

SUMMARY

The mission of **William B. Travis High School**, through its commitment to excellence, is to promote individual student success and responsibility within a caring and cooperative environment. Travis is home to more than 1,600 students and staff.

In fall, 2006, William B. Travis High School purchased *Measuring Up*[®] to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for mathematics and the online component, *Measuring Up Insight*[®], then known as *e-Path*, with the hopes that the program would help students improve their scores on state assessments, then known as TAKS. *Measuring Up e-Path* was utilized year-round by 134 students in three 6-week cycles. During each cycle, students focused on eight TEKS, and were given a weekly assessment based on those specific standards. Students practiced one standard up to four times per cycle as part of a “warm-up” and “cool-down” that included approximately three questions each. Therefore, difficult standards were reinforced up to 12 times per cycle.

Teachers assessed the students online using the *Measuring Up* full-length Diagnostic Practice Test (DPT). By giving students a test that mimicked the style, format, difficulty level, and length of the state assessments, teachers were able to pinpoint student weaknesses by specific TEKS. The automated prescriptive reports that teachers received from showed them exactly which *Measuring Up* worktext lessons each student needed for instruction, review, and practice of specific TEKS.

Teachers provided additional standards-based support and quickly built student proficiency using the *Measuring Up* worktext every Monday throughout the school year. While the worktext covers 100% of the TEKS, having the online data to show exactly which lessons each student needed to gain standards proficiency saved teachers much time and effort.

Juan Gonzalez, former Assistant Principal at William B. Travis (now the Assistant Principal at W. Charles Akins High School, which is also part of Austin ISD) says that the questions found in *Measuring Up*'s online item bank are the most in-line with actual items on state assessments, as compared to similar online assessment

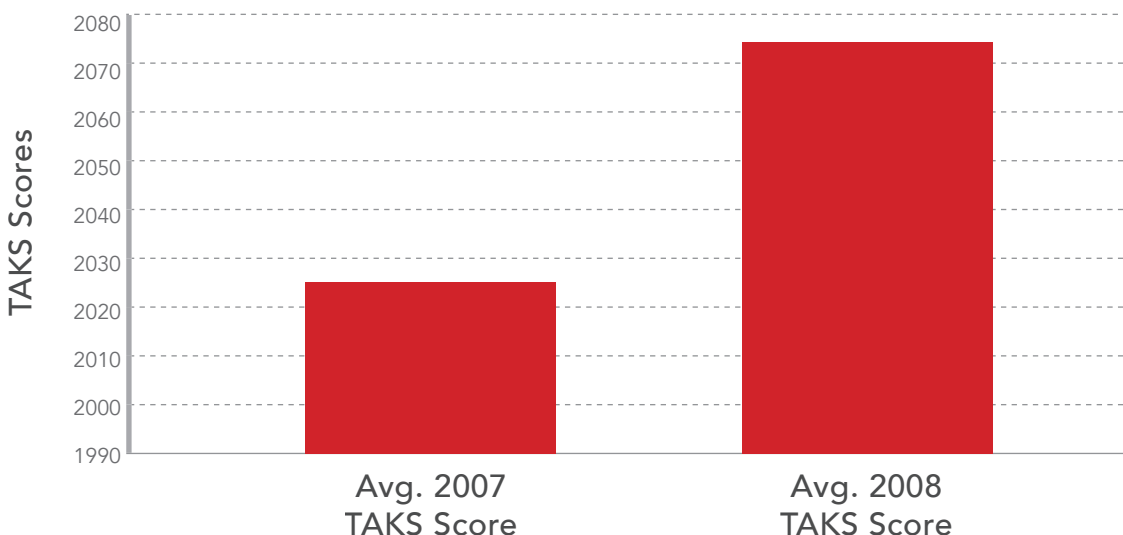
programs, in terms of style, format and level of difficulty. Gonzalez says that he hasn't found another program that has as much rigor and he said that by utilizing all of the program components together, students were more than adequately prepared for the state assessments.

THE RESULTS

After just one year of using *Measuring Up*, students' state assessment scores increased by 50 points, and the number of students meeting state standards increased by 20%. As a result, **William B. Travis High School is now recognized as a Texas Education Agency Gold Performance Acknowledgement Recipient in the area of Mathematics.**

Comparable improvement awards reflect the amount of improvement in student performance in state assessment scores from one year to the next. To be eligible for the award, a school's scores must be within the top 25 percentile of a 40-member comparison group, which is made up of schools that are demographically similar. **William B. Travis was one of only 10 schools to receive the award in 2008.**

TAKS Scores Increased by 50 Points in 2008



20% of Students Transitioned from DNMS to MS in 2008

