ACHIEVE3000: 2013-14

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At-a-Glance

ACHIEVE3000 is an online software program that provides differentiated online instruction to improve reading and writing proficiency. The Multi-Language Enrichment Program (M-LEP) purchased the Achieve3000 in English and Spanish for the 2013-14 school year as a supplemental resource to address the reading and writing needs of English as a Second Language (ESL) students in the Dallas ISD. This was in response to the low level performance of ESL students on the reading and/or writing STAAR or EOC in middle and high school. The software was also made available to ESL students in grades 3-5. Approximately 9,000 software licenses were purchased for a cost of $495,000.00. This software program had been used previously at Comstock Middle school with seventh and eighth graders and showed positive results according to an ACHIEVE3000 report.¹

ACHIEVE3000’s differentiated online instruction in reading and writing gives students the capacity to improve their performance in these and other content areas. Three software programs were used in the district: KidBiz3000 (grades 3-5), TeenBiz3000 (grades 6-8), and Empower3000 Differentiated Literacy Solution (grades 9-12). All students received the same topics and lessons, while they were taught one-on-one at their individual levels. The program delivers differentiated assignments at 12 different reading levels, along with formative assessments linked to state and Common Core standards. The program uses a five step literacy routine that helps students:

- acquire knowledge from informational texts,
- develop strong content knowledge,
- use higher-order thinking skills,
- make reading strategies automatic,
- understand that information influences opinions and must be validated with evidence (grades 3-5),
- argue effectively with supporting evidence (grades 8-12), and
- communicate effectively when writing and speaking (grades 8-12).

Students’ reading levels are continually assessed and immediate results are provided for possible intervention. By the time students finish high school they need a Lexile level² of 1300 in order to be successful in college and beyond. The Achieve3000’s online literacy solutions uses the Lexile® Framework for reading to measure students’ reading ability and to track reading progress throughout the year.

Outcomes

Program software licenses were available for 9,000 English language learners (ELLs) in grades 3 through 8 who did not pass the 2012-13 STAAR Reading and/or Writing or English EOC in high school. Each campus had the option of providing the program during, after, and/or Saturday school and was also accessible from home.

The program was to have started in March 2014; however, due to delays, it officially began May 2014 and terminates in December 2014 when the software licenses expire. A total of 432 elementary, 5,823 middle and 3,535 high school level ESL students were identified who met the eligibility criteria. Enrollment data, however was not available to report.

The program started out with problems due to low rate of teacher training participation and student use. In addition, there were questions as how to implement the program where only a portion of the classes had licenses. Reading and writing outcome data will not be available until STAAR and EOC data become available in June 2015. As a result of the issues confronted during 2013-14, there are plans to change the student eligibility selection process for 2014-15.

Recommendations

The ACHIEVE3000 program was implemented for the first time late in the second semester (May) of the 2013-14 school year. The information presented in this report is only to provide an overview of the ACHIEVE3000 program. Other than to continue the program through December 2014 according to contract specifications, there are no specific recommendations at this time. However, before committing to longer term use of the program, data analysis should be conducted to determine if students who used the program showed improvement in test scores.

For more information, contact Program Evaluation at 972-925-6457.

¹ Source ACHIEVE3000 End-of-Year Implementation Highlights Comstock Middle School, May 2013.

² An educational tool that uses a measure called a Lexile to match readers of all ages with books, articles and other appropriate leveled reading resources.