

KEY FINDINGS

- *Inside with Online Coach* and *eAssessment* motivates and engages 21st Century Learners
- Students achieve twice the expected reading growth in just one semester
- *Online Coach* helps students exceed expected gains in reading fluency

Inside and Online Coach® Students Exceed Expectations



Challenge

March Middle School, in Val Verde Unified School District, California, needed more students to improve their reading/language arts skills in order to meet the state's annual proficiency targets.

Dr. Pospichal, the school's principal, sought a program that would provide an intensive focus on key skills, concepts, and standards for English/Language Arts (ELA). She also wanted ongoing data to guide intervention for adolescents reading two or more years below grade level. Finally, the principal and teachers needed materials that would keep their diverse 21st Century Learners engaged and motivated to succeed.

Solution

Inside Language, Literacy, and Content was selected as the core ELA program for intervention classes at March Middle School. During the first year of *Inside* implementation, many students improved enough to exit intervention. To help even more students succeed, the principal added *Inside's* technology resources, *Online Coach*® and *eAssessment*.

Online Coach provided ongoing data to guide instruction and monitor progress, yet also motivated students to develop the skills needed to read challenging academic material. Mr. Hartwell, a March Middle School teacher, appreciated that *Online Coach* used *Inside's* reading selections while the built-in coaching helped students build fluency and comprehension skills. He observed, "Students remained fully engaged when they used *Online Coach*—often preferring to read the selections online more than printed text."

eAssessment allowed students to complete tests online and provided an ongoing record of their performance on *Inside* skills and strategies and their

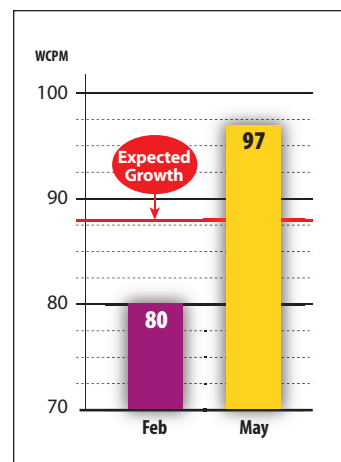
fluency progress with *Online Coach*. "The wealth of data allowed me to monitor each student's progress and target areas of need." Mr. Hartwell explained, "I also helped students use data to monitor their own progress toward benchmark targets and the goal of exiting the intervention class."

Results

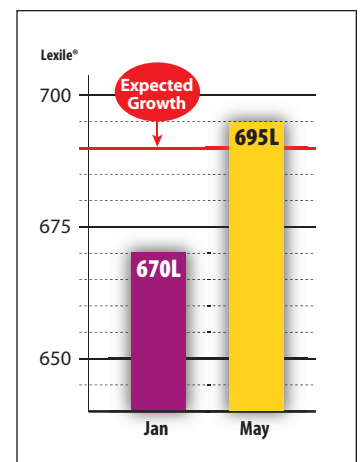
Inside with *Online Coach* and *eAssessment* gave students the advantage they needed for ELA success. Students' reading fluency rates increased an average of 12 Words Correct per Minute (WCPM) in one semester, substantially more than expected based on fluency norms. The Reading Level Gains Test, a valid and reliable measure of reading proficiency, was administered in January and May, 2010. Students showed an average Lexile® measure growth of 40L—almost twice the expected amount for middle school students.

Online Coach proved very motivating for the 21st Century Learners who eagerly embraced using technology to learn. Dr. Pospichal observed, "The fact that students could read passages and have immediate corrective feedback—coaching—helped build both reading skills and confidence in reading," Mr. Hartwell noted, "Students' skills have transferred to other classes; the science and social studies teachers have noticed substantial improvement in intervention students' reading."

Dr. Pospichal explained, "*Online Coach* and *eAssessment* became the answer to how our students could interact directly with technology and really expand on their experience with the *Inside* materials." As a result, many students have also been able to work their way out of intervention.



Fluency Rate Growth



Reading Level Gains Growth

For more information: National Geographic School Publishing • www.NGSP.com • 888-915-3276