

The Challenge

Bluff Ridge Elementary is part of the Davis School District in Utah. This pre-K through 6th grade public school has a large Caucasian population and its scores on the Stanford 9 standardized assessment for 5th grade students hovered just below the average. In an effort to improve their students' academic abilities in the areas of writing and language arts, the District decided to investigate technology-enhanced options.

The Solution

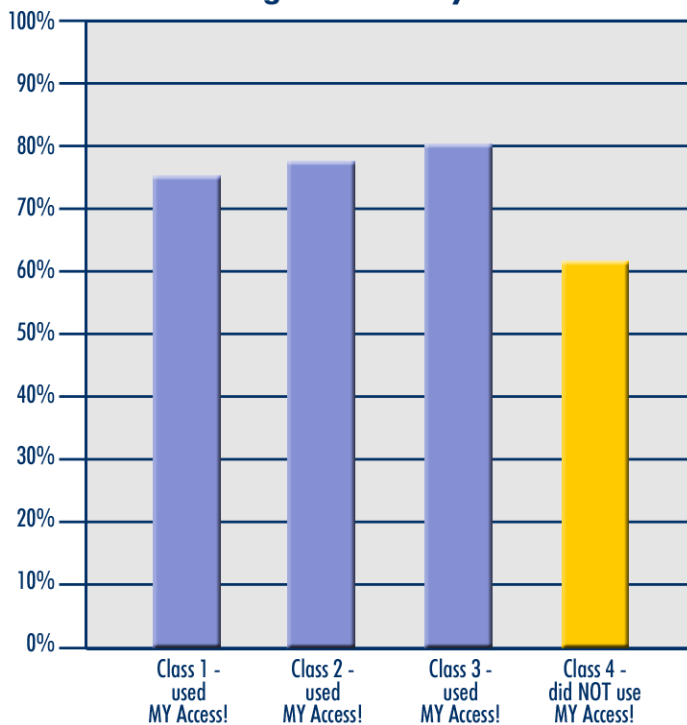
After researching the options, the Davis School District decided to purchase MY Access!™ for use in Bluff Ridge Elementary. Three 5th grade classes incorporated MY Access! into their curriculum, while one class opted to solely use traditional instruction.

MY Access! is a web-based writing environment that scores student essays instantly and provides individualized instruction to engage and motivate students to continually improve their writing skills. Domain scoring identifies each student's strengths and weaknesses in five major areas: focus and meaning, organization, content and development, language use and style, and mechanics and conventions. Armed with this knowledge, teachers can follow assessment with targeted remedial instruction, focusing on specific dimensions of writing where students need further instruction.

The Results

Bluff Ridge Elementary 5th grade students showed meaningful improvement on the writing component of the Utah Core Assessment Program when comparing the 2001-2002 results (prior to MY Access! implementation) to the 2002-2003 results (after a year of MY Access! use).

Comparison of Scores on Writing Component of the Utah Core Assessment Program for Bluff Ridge Elementary School



1) Since implementing MY Access! in three classes, the average scores of Bluff Ridge Elementary on the two writing components of the Utah Core Assessment Program have increased meaningfully.

- In 2001-2002, the school's average score on the "Writing Process" component was 61.2%. In 2002-2003, the school's average score increased by 15.5 percentage points to 76.7%.
- In 2001-2002, the school's average score on the "Writing Conventions" portion of the test was 63.9%. In 2002-2003, this score increased to 84.1%, a 20.2 percentage point increase.

2) MY Access! had a sizable impact on the scores of students on the writing component of the Utah Core Assessment Program after only one year of use.

- The average scores of the three classes using MY Access! ranged from 75.3% to 80.5%.
- The class that did not use MY Access! achieved an average score of only 61.7%.