

The Challenge

Parkland High School is located outside of Allentown, PA and has a gifted population representing 17% of the student body, a statistic any district would be proud to boast. However, after administering the 2002 PSSA Writing Test, administrators and educators found an unacceptable 22% of all students scored Below Proficient. To combat this disturbing trend, they developed a comprehensive remediation plan called "The Treatment."

The Solution

Vantage Learning's award-winning MY Access! was chosen to be an integral part of The Treatment. MY Access! is a prompt-driven, web-based assessment, diagnostic and instructional tool that encourages students to improve their writing skills by providing immediate feedback and the opportunity to revise the essays after data-driven interventions are provided by teachers.

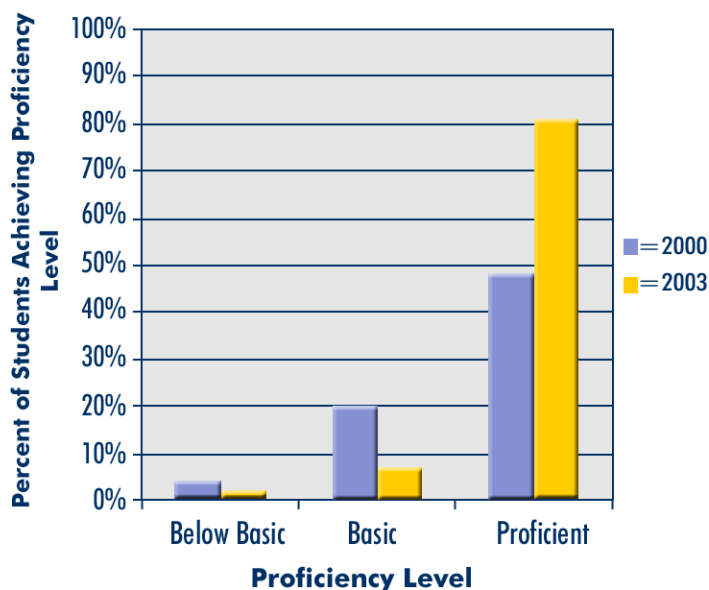
A key function of MY Access! is domain scoring, which identifies each student's strengths and weaknesses in five major areas: focus and meaning, organization, content and development, language use and style, and mechanics and conventions. Armed with this knowledge, teachers across all grades can follow assessment with targeted remedial instruction, focusing on specific dimensions of writing where students need more assistance. Following intervention, students revise and resubmit their essays for scoring, and view their progress.

The Results

Jane Barthold, Assistant Principal, enthuses, "MY Access! is an outstanding teaching and learning tool. Our school improved 15 percentage points on the PSSA writing test since we implemented the program in our English classes last year."

Because of the significant increase in PSSA scores, Parkland views MY Access! as an essential component of their English/Language Arts curriculum. The Parkland study clearly shows that teachers are getting good results when using The Treatment.

**PSSA Writing Scores Year 2000 v. Year 2003,
Parkland High School**



1) The Treatment had sizeable impact in reducing the number of students who were at risk of not meeting Proficient standards.

- Using MY Access!, 91% of 709 students tested on the PSSA in 2003 attained scores of Proficient and Advanced, compared to only 76% of 711 students tested in 2000 that did not use MY Access!.
- Using MY Access!, less than 10% of the class in 2003 is rated below Proficient on their PSSA scores, compared to 25% of the class in 2000 that did not use MY Access!.

2) The Treatment had sizeable impact on raising PSSA test scores from Basic to Proficient, or from Below Basic to either Basic or Proficient.

- 15% more students demonstrated Proficient and Advanced writing skills in 2003 than in 2000. In other words, 100 more students tested on the PSSA in 2003 after using MY Access! attained scores of Proficient and Advanced than in 2000 when MY Access! was not used.
- The majority of these students improved their score by one level.