

TX School Improves TAKS Passing Rate to 91%

BILL ARNOLD MIDDLE SCHOOL, GRAND PRAIRIE, TX

Apangea Boost TAKS Passing Rate for At-Risk Students by 355%

THE PROBLEM

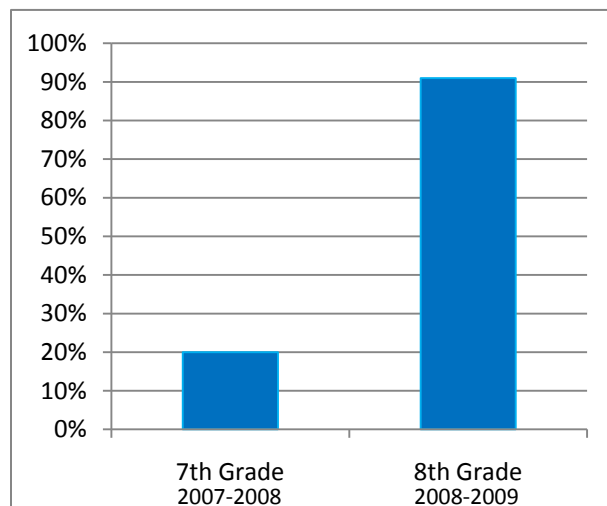
Bill Arnold Middle School needed to help prepare a large number of at-risk students for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS).

THE SOLUTION

Apangea Math was used as a second math class intervention to prepare these at-risk students for the TAKS.

THE RESULT

91% of 8th Grade At-Risk Students Passed the TAKS After Using Apangea - Only 20% of them had Passed the TAKS in 7th Grade.



Percentage of students passing the TAKS before & after being tutored by Apangea.

THE STORY

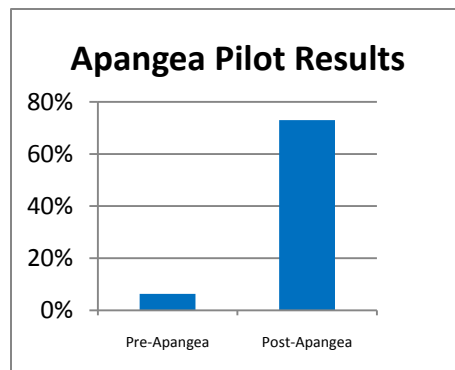
Kenneth King, a math lab coordinator at Bill Arnold Middle School facilitates an Apangea lab for at-risk students. Mr. King first piloted the program in 2008 for 10 weeks. "When we saw the 8th grade gains – and again, they only had ten weeks to work on the system until they took the TAKS test...across the board, there was an increase of about 100 points on the TAKS from using Apangea."

After this 10 week Apangea pilot, 73% of the 8th grade students passed the TAKS. Beyond improving TAKS scores, Ken saw a higher level of confidence and a willingness to participate in the classroom. With the success of the pilot, the Math Department at Bill Arnold expanded the program for the 2008-2009 school year.

Under the direction of Principal Raymond Edwards, Apangea was scheduled as a second math class. "The success we are experiencing from Apangea is predicated on our decision to replace an elective with a second

math class so students get a full class period to work on Apangea five times a week,” stated Principal Edwards. In August 2008, Mr. King implemented Apangea with 120 at-risk students.

Bill Arnold MS saw tremendous gains with Apangea. “Since the average student completed approximately 1,000 problems prior to the TAKS test, it was like they did an extra 40 homework problems per week”, said Mr. King. **Of these 8th Grade Apangea students, 109 (91%) achieved a passing score on the TAKS. The previous year, only 24 (20%) of these students passed the TAKS as 7th grade students. That year Bill Arnold MS received the rating of “recognized” by the Texas Education Agency for the first time in history.**



Percentage of students passing the TAKS before & after being tutored by Apangea.

GOING FORWARD

“Currently, we are using Apangea as an intervention tool to ensure our students have the best opportunity possible to be successful on the TAKS, but I look forward to the day we can begin using Apangea as a tool to move students from passing to the commended level,” said Mr. King.

Many students struggle with new expectations of 6th grade. In Texas, 6th grade students are exposed to more material than they were in previous years, paired with increased performance expectations.

Bill Arnold MS has already begun implementing Apangea Math in 6th and 7th grade. With the addition of a second math lab, they are able to enroll many Apangea students of mixed grade levels. By taking these proactive steps, Bill Arnold MS believes they will see an upward trend in the 6th grade.

Sean Wiese, a 7th Grade Math & Math Lab Instructor, stated “Due to the popularity of the Apangea program, we have had to open the labs before school to accommodate students wanting to work outside the normal school day.”

BILL ARNOLD DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Hispanic	81%
African American	7%
White	10%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2%
Native American	<1%
Eligible for Reduced Lunch	88%
Special Education	12%
Limited English	27%

Source: TX Education Agency, 2007-2008

“Our Apangea students are exposed to various math skills long before they are taught in their regular math class. These students are coming to their regular math classes with a basic understanding and familiarity with what is being taught. This gives them a tremendous advantage over those who have not been exposed to new grade level materials as well as a great boost of confidence!”

~D. Labor, 8th Grade Math Teacher

For more information, visit www.apangea.com.

For a demonstration of Apangea Math, contact our sales

Team at sales@apangea.com or at 866.357.8664.

