



Assessment
Technology
Incorporated

Big Changes, Bigger Results

By implementing big changes throughout the District, Laveen ESD saw even bigger results

Laveen Elementary School District
Laveen, Arizona

What were the main things that the District implemented that you believe were responsible for your success?

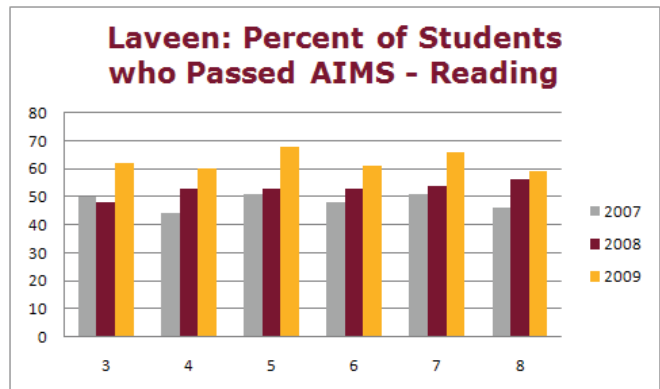
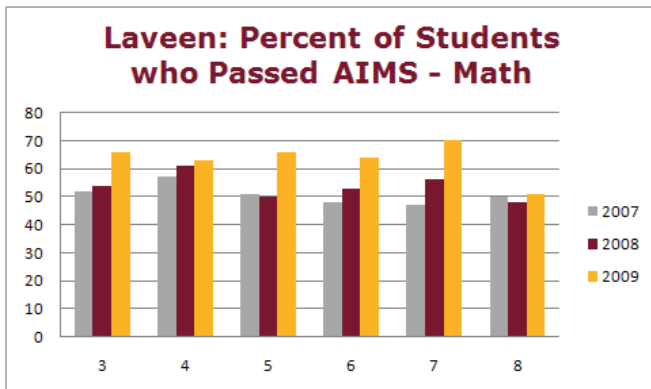
With state testing (Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards) scores improving in every subject for every grade, by as much as 16 percent, from 2008 to 2009, Laveen Elementary School District in Laveen, Arizona is doing something right. **Barbara Marshall**, Laveen's Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services attributes this rise in student achievement to strong administrator support and guidance, a systematic approach for both educator and student development, and the ability to manage and monitor the effects of these approaches through Galileo K-12 Online.

We aligned the curriculum to the state standards, which sounds obvious but it does need to be done. Teacher committees took the state standards and mapped them out for the school year based on the grade levels, and on the order they would teach concepts and objectives. Having that available for our teachers has been a big help, especially in a district like Laveen. We experienced a lot of **hyper growth from 2006 to 2009, about 42 percent average growth rate each year.** We have a lot of new teachers starting their careers or even new to Laveen, so having the map really made a difference. Galileo helps hold teachers accountable for teaching to the map, by having a quarterly testing. And having a management system where we were able to go in and do the reporting **as soon as tests are scanned in, we can start getting the results and start using the results.**

I think one of the things that really struck me when I came to Laveen is that Dr. Ron Dickson (Laveen's Superintendent) has been really systematic with his staff development and it all builds on itself. **It's not like we're trying new things and you've got a hundred different things, which one do you do?** Everything we're doing builds on itself.

We did Galileo professional development with our administrators and that made a big difference in getting the principals and the academic services staff to **really see the benefits of the reports.** We started using the *Aggregate Multi-Test Report* with the principals and gathering data district-wide for district comparisons and at the school level to show principals and site administrators who in turn work with their teachers, who in turn work with their students.

The more the staff learns and sees how to use Galileo, the more beneficial it's becoming, which has really been key. Galileo is not just a program where we can have a test bank aligned to the state standards, and that we can scan in, but it's how we are using the system and using the reports to differentiate instruction.



Galileo K-12 Online

To read the full Q&A with Barbara Marshall, visit <http://ati-online.com/success/laveenQA.html>

Your District utilizes a team of instructional coaches called "Collaborative Peer Teachers." Tell us more about what they do.

The head of the Collaborative Peer Teachers is Mr. Dale Parcell, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and he meets with the Collaborative Peer Teachers on a weekly basis. There is one Collaborative Peer Teacher per campus, with one Technology Collaborative Peer Teacher district-wide whose main role is to teach teachers how to integrate technology into the curriculum.

Mr. Parcell **provides training and support, current research, how things are going, what the norms are,** and so forth. Through the weekly meetings, and especially in the summer when we have a little bit more time, we gave the Collaborative Peer Teachers extensive training in the use of the Galileo reporting system so that **they are in turn training their grade level team leaders and the teachers on their campus.**

What advice would you give to other districts who might want to implement an approach like yours?

I think everything just ties into itself, especially like the staff development, we're not just saying, "Here's something new to try." It's all systematic. Just keeping it at the forefront, not just saying, "Here's what you need to do," but **providing the support and the monitoring to make sure it's happening.**

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District Accomplishments

- Listed by the state as a model district for implementing mandated English language development instruction
- Laveen Elementary School District's Traditional School is the only school in the southwest Arizona valley with an excelling label
- The District's superintendent, Dr. Ron Dickson, was named the 2009-2010 All Arizona Superintendent of the Year
- Twelve Laveen Elementary School District teachers received Excellence in Education Awards during the 2009-2010 school year

Teachers are required to post their Galileo report results in their classroom for their quarterly tests. And they've brought it down to the student level where the students are doing individual graphing and reporting. **It's amazing to see students have goals for themselves, and they are tracking their progress.**

Schools have implemented "Data Assemblies," they **don't just celebrate the kids meeting the standards, but they go in, because Galileo makes it so easy, and find the kids who have made the most growth.** So it might be a student who is really a struggling student, but they made tremendous gains and those students get to be celebrated at the Data Assemblies.

Overall, be systematic in your planning and implementation, involve all stakeholders, and continually monitor the progress to identify strengths and areas to target energies.

About Laveen Elementary School District: The staff of Laveen Elementary School district is committed to providing a high quality education for all students. This commitment, coupled with a highly qualified and caring staff and a rich standards based curriculum make the Laveen schools a wonderful learning environment for students, teachers, staff, and parents. (LaveenESD.org)

About ATI: Assessment Technology Incorporated through Galileo K-12 Online provides an easy-to-use, fully integrated instructional improvement system that combines the strength of research and the power of innovation to assist educators in promoting student mastery of local and state standards. Galileo's patented technology provides customized benchmark, formative, interim/end-of-course, curriculum-based, and placement assessments. Galileo reporting tools coupled with curriculum and instructional dialog tools make it possible to continuously link information about student learning to instructional planning and teaching to promote standards mastery.

Useful Resources

- Laveen Elementary School District LaveenESD.org
- Arizona Department of Education Spotlight on Success ade.az.gov
- Arizona Research Laboratories: Division of Learning, Technology & Assessment ic.arizona.edu/~lta/lta
- Assessment Technology Incorporated and Galileo K-12 Online ati-online.com
- Government Accountability Offices gao.gov
- National Center for Educational Statistics nces.ed.gov
- United States Department of Education ed.gov
- WestEd's Local Accountability Professional Development Series WestEd.org/lapds

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