



Questionmark Case Study

Practice Tests Help K-12 Students Prepare for NCLB Exams

Background

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) was signed into law January 8, 2002. The overall purpose of the law is to ensure that each child in America is able to meet the high learning standards of the state where he or she lives.

Achievement Builders Corporation (ABC), a computer-based learning company that serves children in grades three through ten, saw the need for students to prepare for standardized tests that are being administered to verify student proficiency in core subjects.

Solution

ABC used Questionmark Perception to develop "Practice Makes Perfect," a web-based assessment program that addresses the fundamental learning areas of reading, mathematics, social science and science.

Timed tests hosted by Questionmark and linked to ABC's website use items from previous Illinois State Standards Sample Tests for third, fourth, fifth, seventh, eighth and tenth-grade students. The tests are correlated to the State Standards and give a complete picture of how students are performing according to those standards.

The company has developed similar assessments for students in other states including Michigan. As in Illinois, ABC links each question for Michigan students with particular state core standards.

Security

A registration process sets the security level for anyone who has access to the Perception reports. Schools principals can see reports for every classroom and student; superintendents can see results at the school, classroom and individual level; and teachers can view the results just of their own pupils.

Reporting Test Results

Reports are delivered to teachers within 24 hours of each test. Perception's coaching, score list and item analysis reports are particularly helpful, the latter being used to chart the percentage of students who chose a particular answer. Information from the reports is used to create an organized curriculum audit to help teachers take appropriate action.

Students receive raw scores, while teachers receive the scores as well as Perception reports that correlate the students' performance to the standards.

Comparative reports from tests taken a few weeks apart enable teachers to track students' progress.

Benefits

The ease of registering students makes it possible for school districts to begin testing without having to wait for clerical input of student names.

The quick production and delivery of diagnostic reports to teachers and administrators means that teachers can immediately address student deficits and create student improvement.

By taking practice tests four or five times prior to the state testing, students are showing significant improvement within their deficit areas.

More information

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