

ONLINE CAREER & EDUCATION SOLUTIONS - 2009/2010



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chart
a new
course

setting goals

adventure
excitement

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commitment
opportunity

REACH FARTHER™

passionate BE stretching

persistence

personal best

BE discovery

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joy

accomplish
thinking
beyond
the box



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Test Preparation

testGEAR[®]

Graduation requirements and college admissions standards get tougher and more competitive every year. Students face growing pressure to improve their academic performance and achieve higher test scores.

testGEAR's mission is to bring high-quality standardized test prep to all students by providing powerful, web-based tutorial programs that are universally accessible and affordable. We are committed to putting test success within the reach of anyone who needs it.

Aligned to state standards, testGEAR online test prep raises

students' scores with over 50 hours of individualized curriculum.

Accountability reporting tools help schools track and evaluate students' performance, allowing schools to provide data-driven instruction to initiate remediation strategies.





Case Studies

One of the questions we are always asked is “How do we use this program in our school?” The answer lies in the needs of the individual school. We offer four typical implementation strategies that we have found to be most successful depending on your budget, time and resources. Find out which of the following options might be right for your school.

Curriculum Enhancement

A California high school uses testGEAR to prepare students in their ELA, Math and SAT classes. With a computer lab classroom, the Math and ELA teacher feels that testGEAR is a valuable tool that easily fits his needs since it pulls the questions right from the curriculum. He can tell if he needs to re-teach something by referring to the TestSCOPE reports to see if most of his students are on track or if they do not understand certain concepts.

Is Curriculum Enhancement right for your school?

Schools selecting the curriculum enhancement model often possess a receptive faculty willing to try new methods and strategies to increase student performance. Technology and access to the Internet is plentiful. Schools without multi-computer labs or computers available in the classroom would not benefit from this type of implementation.

Programmed Course

Students at a Texas high school are fortunate enough to receive an academic credit for using testGEAR to prepare for the SAT. testGEAR is used in their SAT test prep class three or four days a week as part of their curriculum, and at least one day a week the Math or English department chair visits the classroom to teach students specific work in those areas.

This school has also introduced testGEAR to their English and Math sophomore through senior classes. Three or four weeks before the PSAT, students are taken to the computer lab to prepare using testGEAR. From there, they are expected to work on testGEAR on their own time from home or school.

At a parent open house, staff handed out business cards with the testGEAR web address and access codes printed on it. Parents have been really pleased with testGEAR, as they see their kids are using it at home simply because they want to do well on the test.

Is a Programmed Course right for your school?

Good candidates for this model include schools that currently support preparing students for pre collegiate exams by offering a test preparation course or have the flexibility to easily add courses. There should also be sufficient Internet access in the school.

After-School Program

In response to the demand for an effective, affordable test preparation program, a New Jersey high school began using testGEAR as a way to augment their existing after-school program. testGEAR's flexible online format gives students the opportunity to catch up on missed work from home. Teachers can recommend which practorials they should take to understand the information covered in class. If a student has a problem in a certain area, the teacher will suggest one of the practice quizzes.

After-school programs work well for schools with no available class time to dedicate to test preparation. Staff found that motivated students were willing to spend a few hours a week in an after-school program if it meant they had a better chance of getting into the college of their choice.

Other schools have also started test prep clubs, transforming the responsibility of test preparation into an engaging extracurricular activity.

Is an After-School program right for your school?

Schools with the flexibility to offer an after-school program are usually open after normal school hours for a variety of community programs. In addition, technology needs to be sufficient and reliable to support the number of participating students.

Stand-Alone

Without an overabundance of computers, a South Carolina high school decided the best way to implement testGEAR would be to offer information to students and parents at every opportunity, so that everyone knew they could use testGEAR from both home and school.

Innovative ways this school “got the word out” include:

- Putting a notice on the bottom of report cards
- Advertising in the school newsletter and through their in-house broadcasting system
- Placing an article in the school newspaper
- Setting up a table at registration, at the beginning of the school year
- Discussing testGEAR at parent/teacher interviews
- Having all teachers announce it in class

Is a Stand-Alone program right for your school?

This program works best for schools that are confident students are motivated and able to direct their own learning (testGEAR makes independent study very straightforward). In addition, most of the student body has access to the Internet at home and their parents are aware of and committed to the importance of preparing for high-stakes exams. Historically, programs using the stand-alone model have a small number of students participating.




B R I D G E S
A X A P C O M P A N Y

3534 Hayden Avenue
Culver City, CA 90232

1-800-281-1168

sales@xap.com | corp.xap.com | www.bridges.com

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