

ACCUPLACER®

Case Study

Enhancing College Readiness During High School

**Washoe County School District
Reno, Nevada**

Target Students: 12th-Graders

Pilot Duration: 36 Weeks

Implementation Model:
Independent Study with Instructor Guidance

Executive Summary

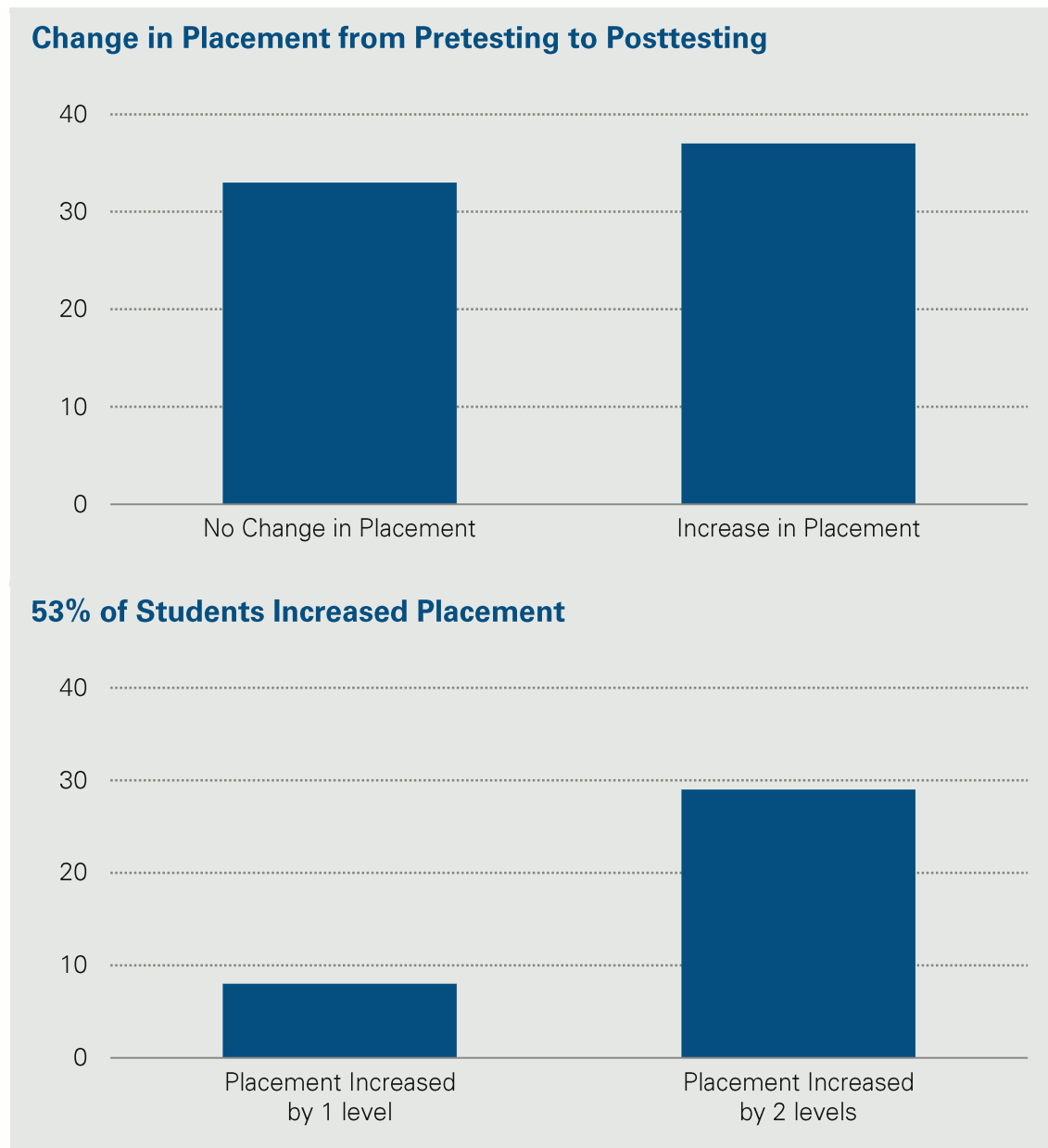
Washoe County School District (WCSD) implemented ACCUPLACER®/MyFoundationsLab® as a resource for independent study with high school seniors. As a result, 53 percent of students participating saw impressive gains in course placement.

Implementation Details

In 2011-12, Washoe County School District partnered with the ACCUPLACER program and Pearson to pilot ACCUPLACER/MyFoundationsLab as a means of enhancing the college readiness of its graduating seniors. The district offered access to MyFoundationsLab as an optional, independent study tool for students who wished to improve their skills. In October, the district tested 935 seniors from 11 of the district's high schools with ACCUPLACER math placement tests to determine course placement for college. Three hundred twenty-seven students completed the ACCUPLACER diagnostic testing required to generate a learning path in MyFoundationsLab. Of those, 179 of those students completed an hour or more in their assigned MyFoundationsLab content. In May, 70 students retook ACCUPLACER placement tests to measure improvements in scores and gains in course placement.

Of those 70 students completing the entire pretesting, intervention, posttesting cycle, 53% (37) increased their course placement by one or two levels, saving themselves both time and money. Twenty-nine students increased their placement by two course levels.

In math, MyFoundationsLab has 77 topics available for students to study. In WCSD, the average student was assigned 46.6 topics and completed 4.4 of them. On average, students spent six hours, ten minutes in the curriculum. Targeted intervention with ACCUPLACER//MyFoundationsLab can make a great deal of difference for students without a large investment of time.



The majority of students increased course placement after intervention with ACCUPLACER//MyFoundationsLab.

Lessons Learned

- Individualized learning provided by ACCUPLACER//MyFoundationsLab combined with guidance can produce significant gains in student placement scores.

Implementation Model

Independent Study with Guidance

This instructional model allows students to work on their own in the ACCUPLACER//MyFoundationsLab online intervention curriculum while also receiving some monitoring and guidance from a teacher/instructor. There is no provision for dedicated class time or access to hardware; students must provide their own computer and manage their own learning with minimal support.

Measure of Success

Improvement in Placement Levels

Pilot program sites were able to identify the percentage of students who improved their course placement and the number of courses bypassed by comparing students' placement levels from pre- to post-assessment. Pilots used the ACCUPLACER placement test as the pre- and post-assessment measure.

Implementation Model

- Independent Study
- Independent Study with Guidance
- Lab Class
- Blended Instruction

Measure of Success

- Improvement in Scores
- Improvement in Placement Levels
- Improvement in Proficiency Levels
- Performance in Subsequent Courses

Location

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural
- Online

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