

An Evaluation of the Implementation and Efficacy of Grow's Personalized Study Guides in Arizona School Districts

Hezel Associates, April 2008

Executive Summary

An independent third-party evaluation completed in 2008 confirms the important role that the *MyGuide*TM Personal Learning Program can play in improving student achievement.

The research study, conducted by Hezel Associates, evaluated the effectiveness of the Arizona version of Grow's program, as measured by student achievement on state assessments. The study evaluated data for students in three diverse Arizona districts who failed to meet passing levels on the exit-level Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) in Spring 2007 and then retook the tests in Fall 2007.

Based on a rigorous statistical evaluation of Arizona students' performance in three subjects, Hezel Associates found that students participating in Grow's personalized study guide program experienced **higher score growth and pass rates** than did similar students who did not participate, as evidenced by **statistically significant** differences across the groups.

Key findings include

1. For students who took retests in all three subjects, students who used the Guides passed significantly more retests than comparable students who did not use the Guides. Of this population, **46% of Guide users** passed at least two of the three retests, compared to **19% of nonusers**.
2. Across all students taking one or more retests, students reporting moderate or high use of the Guide achieved **69% better score growth in Math** and **50% better score growth in Writing** compared to students reporting no or low use.
3. Important statistically significant results were shown among Hispanic students, as **Hispanic participants passed Reading and Writing 33% more often** than Hispanic nonparticipants.
4. Substantial qualitative effects were seen as well, with **more than 90% of student participants** reporting that the program helped increase their understanding of Arizona standards.

These results confirm the strength of Grow's unique instructional approach. Leveraging cutting-edge print and web technology, Grow has developed the *MyGuide*TM Personal Learning Program upon a strong foundation of educational research:

- The program enables teachers to successfully differentiate instruction for all students, which is a proven instructional strategy for assisting diverse learners in the mastery of rigorous standards.
- The program helps students take control of their own learning by making academic expectations clear and providing individualized instructional guidance. All strategies have been shown to have dramatic impact on student achievement.
- Parents can use the program to understand their children's strengths and needs, enabling them to play key roles in monitoring and supporting their children's progress.

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