



FOCUS ON

Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT)

Project SWEET

Technology integration program for students and staff development for teachers sweeten test scores with 22% gain



Pajaro Valley Unified School District

When the California Standards Test (CST) in English Language Arts (ELA) determined that 70 percent of middle school students in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District in Watsonville, California, were working below standards, and that 43 percent of eighth graders did not pass the graduation requirement for writing, it was clear that the students needed to be provided with unique tools to boost writing skills.

Those tools came in the form of the Student Writing Enhanced by Education Technology (SWEET) program which was designed to boost achievement in writing skills and performance on state content standards by improving student access to technology, increasing teacher use of technology in the classroom to support student achievement, and improving home-to-school communication through a comprehensive technology-driven language arts project.

Funded by an Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) competitive grant, the two-year program also incorporated an electronic writing tool kit, a collaborative forum environment, online writing portfolios and the creation of a project web site.

Approximately 2,600 middle school students in sixth through eighth grades at Rolling Hills, Lakeview, Pajaro, and E.A. Hall Middle Schools, as well as Alianza Charter School, participated in the program, along with 45 classroom teachers, and five school site administrators.

All five schools are located in a predominantly agricultural community on the



central coast of California. Approximately 63% of students qualify for the free and reduced lunch program, 47% of students are identified as English Language Learners, and just over 8% of students are homeless.



Key components of the SWEET program include technology integration, focused staff development, ongoing staff coaching and the presence of a full-time SWEET technical team comprised of a full-time integration coach, integration technician, a multi-funded program coordinator, consultants and other PVUSD staff. Team members rotate among the campuses and classrooms, providing teachers with hands-on mentoring in the use of technology to enhance instruction, curriculum, equipment, software and advanced electronic tools.

Beginning with the purchase of 310 mobile laptop computers and language arts software

FAST FACTS

NAME OF DISTRICT
Pajaro Valley Unified School District

CURRICULAR FOCUS AREA
Writing

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

- Rolling Hills Middle School
- Lakeview Middle School
- Pajaro Middle School
- EA Hall Middle School
- Alianza Charter School

GRADE LEVELS
6 - 8

NUMBER OF STUDENTS INVOLVED IN PROJECT
2600

NUMBER OF TEACHERS INVOLVED IN PROJECT
45 Classroom Teachers

NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATORS INVOLVED IN PROJECT
5 School Site Administrators

PRIMARY SOURCE OF FUNDING
EETT Competitive Grant

KEY PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- Technology Integration
- Focused Staff Development
- Ongoing Staff Coaching
- Full time Technical Staff

CONTACT PERSON
Grant W. Coffin
grant_coffin@pvusd.net
(831) 786-2100 ext. 399

October 2007

© 2007 by the California Department of Education
All rights reserved

The California Department of Education (CDE), Education Technology Office administers the EETT Competitive and Formula Grant Program under Title II, Part D, of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Funds from this grant are used to assist districts to utilize technology to enhance teaching and promote learning. Funds are distributed equally to the EETT Competitive and Formula Programs. The CDE distributed \$95 million dollars in 2005-07 to local educational agencies (LEAs) and will distribute \$33 million dollars in 2007-2008.

EETT Competitive Grants (EETT-C) provide funding for grades four through eight to assist eligible local educational agencies in using technology to enhance teaching and learning. It is a competitive grant process for which LEAs must complete an application which is scored and ranked against other competitors. The top scoring applications are funded.

EETT Formula Grants (EETT-F) provide funding for grades kindergarten through twelve to assist eligible local educational agencies in using technology to enhance teaching and learning. Funding amounts are based on the LEA's proportion of their eligible Title I, Part A amount applied against the Title II, Part D total available amount of money to be distributed.

PVUSD SWEET Program Schools/Statewide 7th Grade Writing Applications Comparison

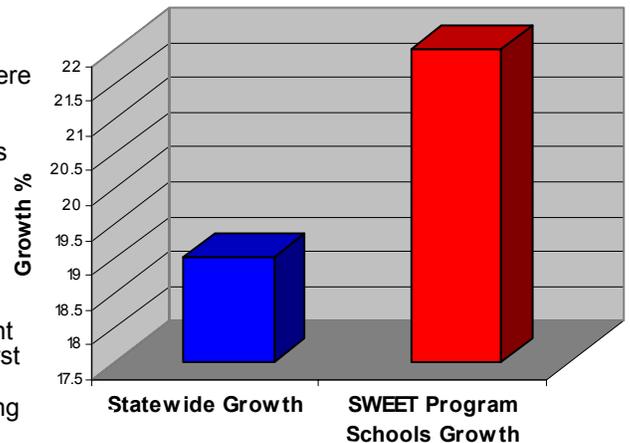
to provide a writing lab on wheels, the SWEET planning team then designed a training series for teachers at a summer retreat. Four days of staff development, ongoing staff coaching, online message boards, and chat and email capability were provided for teachers.

Document cameras, and color projectors were purchased and wireless coverage at school sites was increased as part of the project. Online accounts with city computer labs and a partnership with the city library were also established.

The program's success has been evident in several areas over the course of its first year of operation, the most dramatic of which is a 22% increase in student writing application scores in one year, which surpassed statewide growth of 19%.

The SWEET project was the only writing initiative implemented

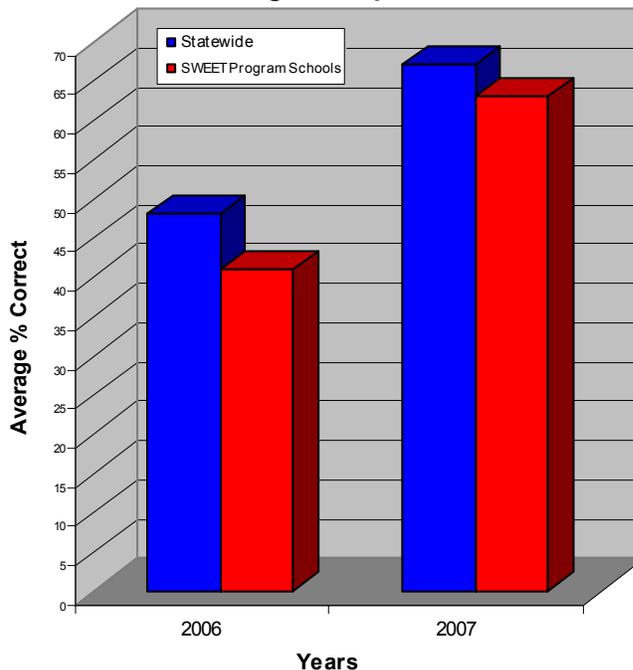
2006 - 2007
Writing Applications Scores



“Student engagement and writing skills have increased dramatically. They are writing twice as much as they did before the SWEET program.”

**Bob Seuss, 8th grade Lakeview Middle School
Pajaro Valley Unified School District**

Narrowing the Gap



in the district during the 2006-2007 school year and data show that teacher use of technology tools in the classroom increased seven percent and their use of technology to support student achievement rose 46% during that year. Student access to computers increased from a ratio of 3.9 students per computer to 2.4 students per computer and student use of technology increased 18%.

While test score data attest to students' scholastic achievements in the SWEET program, it's more difficult to measure their increased motivation. But Pajaro teachers have seen it in their classrooms.

“Student engagement and writing skills have increased dramatically,” according to Bob Seuss, 8th Grade Lakeview Middle School teacher. “They are writing twice as much as they did before the SWEET program.”

For additional information, visit <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/et/ft/eett.asp>