

Channelview Independent School District (ISD) is located in Channelview, Texas, an unincorporated area situated on the Houston Ship Channel approximately 15 miles east of downtown Houston. With the Scantron® assessment solution, combining Achievement Series™ and Performance Series™, the urban pre-K-12 district is providing administrators and teachers with the assessment data they need to target instruction for students district-wide, including those participating in ESL and alternative education programs.

Channelview ISD enrolls approximately 8,000 students across 11 campuses. The district includes a pre-K center, four primary schools, three elementary schools, one junior high school, one high school, an alternative high school and a discipline school.

"Our district needed a platform to easily deploy benchmark testing in grades 3 – 12 in math, reading, science and social studies," said Laurie Bauer, principal of Channelview High School.

Achievement Series

In 2005-06, Channelview ISD started using Achievement Series, a web-based assessment platform, to develop and administer district benchmark tests both online and on paper, capture results, and produce reports.

"We use Achievement Series to create our own item banks that are correlated to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and cross-referenced to the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)," said Bauer. "Our district has a primary level, an elementary level, and a secondary level curriculum specialist. They go out to the campuses and ask, 'What objectives do you want to see on the next benchmark test?' Then they create and distribute them to the campuses."

Using Achievement Series, the district can mix and match paper-based and online delivery methods to meet the needs of individual schools and departments. "We administer tests both ways," said Bauer. "At the elementary and middle school levels, each campus decides how it would like to deliver the tests. At the high school level, each department head decides."

Educators use the test results to identify the state standards for which remediation is required and guide instruction in preparation for the TAKS. "By using benchmark and 'mini mark' tests created through Achievement Series, we've been able to really focus teaching and learning on what the student needs in preparation for the state assessment," said Bauer. "Teachers use the data to readjust teaching strategies or the curriculum to address student learning gaps, and administrators use the data to see how our spiraling curriculum is working in the different grade levels and to find out where strengths or weaknesses are."

With a variety of report formats built into the system, educators can view the data by individual student, class, grade, school, district, subject or standards.



Sharing Item Banks

In addition, Achievement Series allows Channelview ISD to collaborate on item development by sharing item banks both within and outside the district.

"With Achievement Series it's so easy to share item banks with other districts," said Bauer. "In Texas, every school district is in the same boat. We all have to meet the same standards. It's a huge benefit for districts to be able to share, so we're getting best of both worlds by combining our own item banks with those produced by other districts. That's a key benefit I've found with Achievement Series."

Performance Series

In 2006-07, Channelview ISD added Scantron's Performance Series to help teachers address the individual needs of students participating in English as a Second Language (ESL) and alternative education programs. Performance Series is a research based, computer-adaptive test that allows educators to quickly pinpoint students' individual proficiency levels across a range of subjects that correspond with their state standards and track growth across grades.

Addressing the Needs of Limited English Proficient Students

In Channelview ISD, Performance Series tests are given to all limited English

proficient (LEP) students in grades 6 through 12 at the beginning of each year, or as they enter school, as a diagnostic assessment to accurately measure learning levels in reading and math, and guide placement in ESL classes.

Teachers use Performance Series to create an individualized learning plan for each student based on his or her particular needs. Scantron's unique Suggested Learning Objectives report organizes skills and concepts by ability level, according to the Performance Series scaled score. The skills and concepts, which are aligned to state standards, help guide instruction by identifying the next steps for the teacher and student.

The Performance Series tests will be administered again at the end of the year to measure year-long gains and growth.

Individualizing Instruction in an Alternative Setting

In addition, in 2006-07 Channelview ISD began using Performance Series in a pilot program at Apollo Discipline School, an alternative education program that students attend for 15 to 45 days before returning to their regular schools. As students enter Apollo, the district uses Performance Series to test every student in grades four through 12 in reading, language arts, math, and life science.

"Apollo provides a more structured environment for students with behavioral problems," said Bauer. "Many times, students misbehave as a result of low skill levels in most areas. Performance Series is a perfect fit for our program because it allows teachers to find out exactly what students know and what students need to work on, so they can individualize instruction to meet each student's needs. It helps the teacher build the student's skill base so when students go back to their schools they will have learned more of what they missed than ever before."

"We're finding that we don't have as many repeat students at Apollo school, in comparison to last year," said Bauer. "They've had the opportunity to experience success and hopefully that's helping to change their attitude about school."

Building a Long-Term Solution

"When you implement a comprehensive assessment program, it's important to remember that it's not an overnight solution; it's a long-term solution," said Bauer. When we create or add new item banks to Achievement Series, for example, or add Performance Series to a program, we know we're expanding opportunities for our students to succeed. Our administrators and teachers love the Scantron programs because they provide the data they need to impact instruction and, ultimately, the success of our students."

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Laurie Bauer
Principal
Channelview High School



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