



About the School:		About the Students:	
Grades:	6-8	African American:	-
Number of Students:	1,127	Caucasian:	55%
Test(s):	API/SAT9	Hispanic:	37%
Reduced Price Lunch:	53%	Asian:	2%
ELL:	19%	Filipino:	4%
		Native American:	1%
		Other:	1%



The REACH System Spells Success for California Middle School

Since SRA/McGraw-Hill's *REACH System* was implemented school-wide in 2000 at South Tahoe Middle School, students' academic growth and achievement has improved, thus increasing the school's Academic Performance Index (API) score to an all-time high of 720 in 2005.

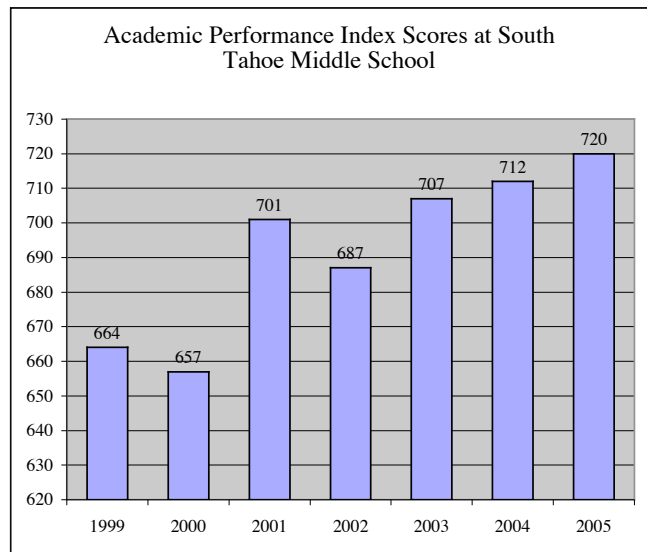
Academic success hasn't always been the story at South Tahoe Middle School. At the beginning of the 1999-2000 school year, half of the Grade 6 students were reading between Grades 2-5. Teachers complained that Grade 8 students could not read their history and science textbooks. It was time for a profound change that would allow students in this northern California middle school to catch up as quickly as possible.

"We needed a tried and true remedial program to pull our kids up to the appropriate reading levels," past Principal Mike Greenfield said.

Educators committed to using *The REACH System*, which is designed for students in need of specialized, intensive intervention. *REACH* provides highly effective reading and language arts intervention and helps teachers close the educational gaps faced by at-risk students.

Immediate Success

The results during the first year of implementation (2000-2001) were immediate. Students in all grades gained 10 percentile points (from the 50th percentile to the 60th) on the Stanford 9 (SAT/9) reading, spelling, and language arts tests in 2001.



The maximum API score is 1000;
the statewide target is 800.

The school's API scores also increased substantially. From 2003-2005, South Tahoe Middle School met all of its API growth targets, including school-wide growth and subgroup growth. The growth target for Hispanic students was 4 points in 2004; achieved growth was 9. The growth target for socioeconomically disadvantaged students was 4 points in 2004; achieved growth was 20.



Current Principal Jackie Nelson credits teachers and students with this success. “Reading periods are sacred here, and the kids know that. We receive the fewest discipline referrals during reading period than any other time of the day.”

Today, educators at South Tahoe Middle School continue to use *The REACH System*. They feel they have achieved great success because their principals took on the role of *REACH* advocate. “You have to have an administrator who holds others accountable,” Grade 6 Teacher Louise Ann Simon said. “We continue to monitor student progress once a month, and that’s great accountability.”

About South Tahoe Middle School

Located in the Lake Tahoe Unified School District, this middle school serves more than 1,100 children in Grades 6-8: 55% Caucasian, 37% Hispanic, 4% Filipino, 2% Asian, 1% Native American, and 1% multicultural. Fifty-three percent of the students qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, and 19% are English Language Learners. For more information about South Tahoe Middle School, visit <http://stms.ltusd.k12.ca.us>.

About The REACH System

The REACH System provides highly effective reading and language arts remediation, which is designed to close the educational gaps faced by at-risk students and help those in need of specialized, intensive intervention. Its programs include *Corrective Reading*, *Spelling Through Morphographs*, and *Reasoning and Writing*.

For More Information

If you would like to learn more about success with Direct Instruction programs in your school or district, please contact us today at **1-888-SRA-4543**.
