

# New Results Confirm Instructional Effectiveness of Grow Network's MyGuide™ Personal Learning Program

## Instructional Innovation Based on Leading Educational Research

The research is clear:

- Teacher-led differentiated instruction holds the best promise for assisting diverse learners in the mastery of rigorous standards.
- Student achievement increases dramatically when students understand their academic expectations, receive individualized instructional guidance, and review their ongoing progress.
- Parental involvement, especially monitoring of student progress, is important to student success.

The MyGuide Personal Learning Program, developed by The Grow Network/McGraw-Hill (Grow), leverages cutting-edge print and web technology to:

- **Enable teachers to successfully differentiate instruction** for all students
- **Motivate students to take control of their own learning**
- **Engage parents** by providing clear information about their children's progress

## Significant Achievement Results in Arizona

An independent third-party evaluation completed in 2008 confirms the important role that the MyGuide 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.

*"I spoke with each of the students who received a study guide. **It was incredible to watch their reaction move from skepticism to appreciation and pride for the guides.** They are so surprised that this is something that is theirs, and I think it's going to have a big impact on them."*

Principal,  
Suaharita High School,  
Pima County

*"I really like the formatting of the study guide. I think that it is easy to follow. It highlights and pinpoints important ideas and concepts. It uses bolding and highlighting effectively. It was not too text heavy..."*

***I think that the study guide was quite effective for my English language learners. It is clear and easy to read, and it was not too overwhelming."***

ELL Coordinator,  
School for Integrated  
Academics and Technologies,  
Maricopa County



## **Building on Grow's Successful History of Driving Differentiated Instruction**

The individualized *MyGuide* Personal Learning Program was developed based on the success of Grow's differentiated instruction system. This unique online/print system for educators analyzes individual assessment data and ties flexible groupings of students to leveled standards-based content, all supported by integrated professional development. In fact, the *MyGuide*™ concept originated when Grow staff saw teachers manually create individualized booklets for students based on the analyzed student data and leveled instructional materials provided in the Grow system.

### **Ohio**

In 2007, the Consortium for Policy Research in Education released a rigorous quantitative study of Grow's differentiated instruction system, implemented in randomly selected Ohio districts on behalf of the Ohio Department of Education. The findings were striking. Among the statistically significant results were dramatic student achievement gains in the treatment districts selected for the Grow program.

- Students in treatment districts performed significantly better on the retests as compared to similar students in control districts. For example, students in treatment districts were 27% more likely to demonstrate proficiency in Science and 22% more likely to demonstrate proficiency in Social Studies, compared to students in control districts.
- These findings were particularly robust for African-American students and students with limited English proficiency.
  - African-American students in treatment districts were “about 40% more likely to score proficient” across subjects, compared to their counterparts in control districts.
  - The researchers also found “an exceptionally large positive effect in Writing...for students with limited English proficiency. LEP students were nearly four times more likely to score proficient in Writing” if they attended treatment districts.

### **New York City**

In 2005, the Center for Children and Technology released the results of a two-year study of teachers' use of Grow's differentiated instruction system, implemented since 2001 for students in Grades 3–8. Through extensive interviews and site visits, the researchers found that New York City teachers had incorporated differentiated instruction approaches based on the Grow system.

- The Grow system is a “tool that aligns test results with standards and instructional strategies” and presents these in a “meaningful format from which teachers can draw the information they need to support differentiating instruction and think about students' weaknesses as well as their strengths.”
- Grow has brought “high-stakes data directly to teachers and administrators in a way that saves them time and energy...Grow has effectively transformed the test data so that the educator can use them when making classroom decisions.”

### **Conclusion**

The challenge of ensuring standards mastery for a diverse set of learners is enormous. With Grow's newest offering—the *MyGuide* Personal Learning Program—districts can deploy a full instructional solution that enables teachers to differentiate instruction, motivate students, engage parents, and increase academic performance.

*Independent studies have validated the Grow system's exceptional impact on teaching and learning.*

Call 866-539-0439  
or visit <http://info.grow.net>

The Grow Network/  
McGraw-Hill  
Two Penn Plaza, 6th floor  
New York, NY 10121  
<http://info.grow.net>