

JOURNEYS

COMMON CORE

FREMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Case Study



DISTRICT OVERVIEW

Fremont Community School District is a Title 1 district located in eastern Nebraska. The district includes a total of 12 schools serving 4450 Grade Pre-K–12 students. The professional staff includes 301 teachers, with 295 support personnel and administrators.

Fremont Community School District	
Student Population	4,450
Caucasian	78%
Hispanic	20%
Free/Reduced Lunch	45%
Students with Special Needs	13%

NEBRASKA STATE ACCOUNTABILITY TESTS

After Fremont Community School District used the *Journeys* program for the 2010-2011 academic year, scores from the Nebraska State Accountability Tests were collected to assess how *Journeys* affected student reading performance.

Nebraska State Accountability Tests are based on Nebraska's Content Standards and reflect the essential concepts and skills students are expected to know and perform. The foundational skills included are communication, problem solving, resource access and utilization, and linking and generating knowledge.

Student scores can be converted into a proficiency level which indicates if students have mastered the content standards in a given subject and grade level.

In Nebraska student test scores can be categorized into one of three levels of mastery: Below, Meets, and Exceeds.

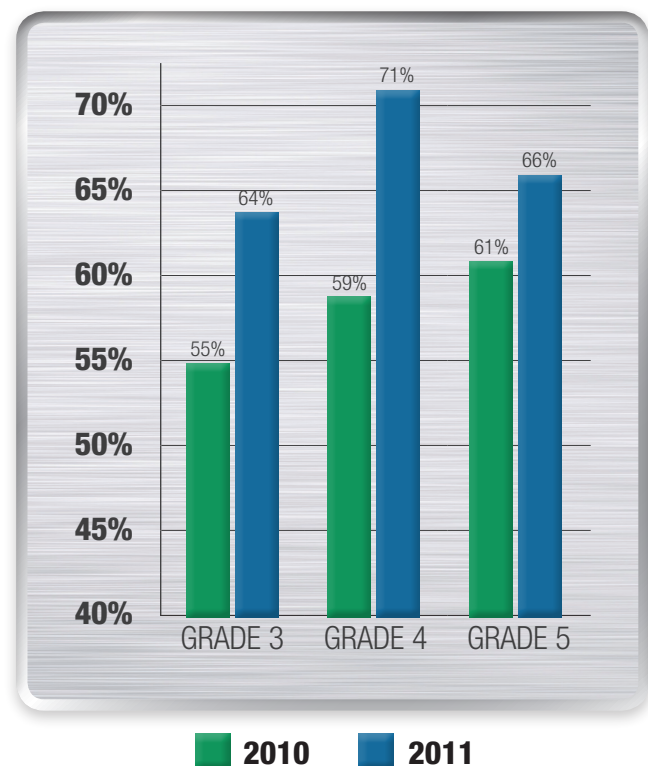
“Several of my students were not interested in reading for pleasure or for learning at the beginning of the year. After using *Journeys*, students are now more likely to tell me something that they have learned while reading or ask for a book on a specific topic.”

Linda Watson
Washington Elementary School

STUDENT SUCCESS WITH *JOURNEYS*

To assess if implementing *Journeys* had an impact on learning, student test scores from the Spring of 2010 (prior to using the program) and the Spring of 2011 (after the first year of usage) were obtained for Grades 3–5. These findings are presented in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1
PERCENT OF STUDENTS MEETS/EXCEEDS



The comparison of achievement scores revealed that at all grade levels examined the percentages of students scoring Meets or higher were greater in 2011, after using *Journeys*, than the previous year, with an average gain of over 8%.

CONCLUSION

This one-year examination of a districtwide implementation of *Journeys* in Fremont Community School District revealed that the program was associated with increased reading performance. **This case study provides evidence that *Journeys* will be effective in improving students' reading proficiency in other districts with similar demographics and characteristics.**