

THE KEY TO ENHANCING STUDENT SUCCESS

Providing Accountability

Accountability has become a key word in education. The landmark legislation, *No Child Left Behind*, holds states, school districts, individual schools, and teachers accountable for classroom results. States are implementing strong academic standards for what every child should know in reading, math, and science for elementary, middle, and high schools. Students are expected to demonstrate their mastery of requisite concepts and skills through extensive testing.

Test results will be included in annual state and district report cards the public can use to measure their schools' performance and their state's progress against the standards. These state and district reports will reveal the test results for every student group, including those who are economically disadvantaged; members of racial, ethnic, and language minorities; and students with disabilities. The report cards also will provide results by gender and migrant status to help identify and close the achievement gap between students of various groups.¹

In addition to increased accountability, *No Child Left Behind* supports the use of effective, research-based education methods and appropriate classroom technology.

Teachers and administrators throughout the country are striving to meet the standards imposed by *No Child Left Behind*, but in a highly diverse society, it can be difficult to close the learning gap. The old methods don't always work. A new millennium requires new strategies.

Glencoe/McGraw-Hill believes that all students, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic group, or ability level should have the opportunity and tools to succeed on state and federally mandated tests, and our unique PassKey program is an effective, proven method that addresses many of the concerns raised by the provisions of *No Child Left Behind*.¹

¹ *No Child Left Behind* Web site

Effective, technology-based learning

Used in schools throughout the country for nearly 20 years, *PassKey: A Prescriptive Learning System*, is an easy-to-use, self-paced learning tool that helps a wide range of students gain proficiency in mathematics, reading, writing, science, and social studies. Hundreds of computer-based lessons span five skill levels and reading levels from 1.6 to 12.9. The lessons challenge every learner, from beginning to advanced. You can choose just the modules you need to achieve the results you want.

This report presents the stories of eight schools across the nation that have selected the PassKey program. Some schools use the program for remediation; some find it especially useful for ESL students. Some teachers choose PassKey to give at-risk or learning disabled students an additional learning strategy. Others give every student the opportunity to experience the PassKey difference. No matter how the program is implemented, the results are the same—an increase, sometimes dramatic, in test scores.

Those who have used the program are eager to share their stories. You may contact those who have been identified in each article to learn more about how they've used PassKey to help their students, and how you might do so as well.