

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA**

Custom-Tailored

“Our students generally have been out of school for a year or two. Some of them have less than 20 of the 220 credits needed to graduate from high

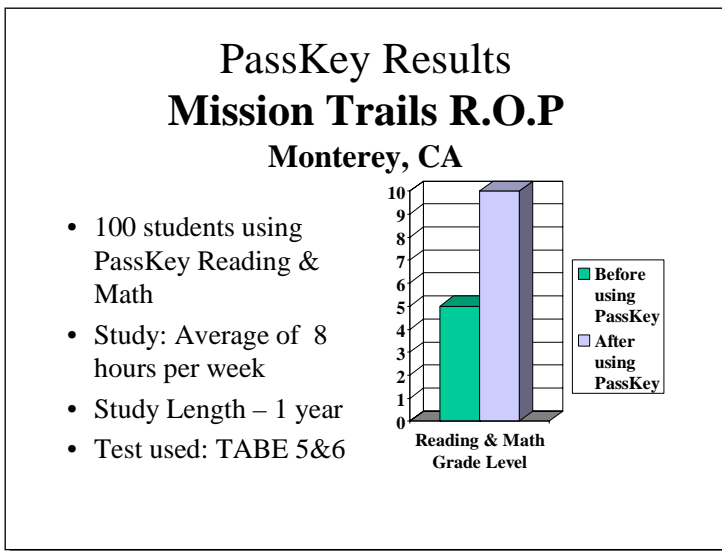
school. Some are on probation. Many have had problems with drugs, alcohol, or family abuse. We’re the last step for them,” says John Felice, assistant director of the program.

“We prepare our students vocationally and get them ready for the GED,” Felice says. “To do that, we use the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) to get a handle on what a student’s

achievement level is and how well they can be expected to do on the GED. Then we put them on PassKey to eliminate the deficiencies.”

Between August 2001 and June 2002, approximately 60 students worked eight hours per week on the PassKey reading and math programs. Before PassKey, the average score on the TABE was between 5th and 6th grade. After working on PassKey, the students’ average score was above the 10th grade level in both math and reading.

“We never have to use behavioral interventions in the computer lab. We simply don’t have problems there.”



Of the 60 students in the program, 20 students passed the GED immediately, 19 students need to pass only one or two more tests, and the remainder will return for further instruction. “The correlations to state and national tests are great,” Felice says, “and PassKey allows us to custom-tailor a program for every student.”

PassKey helps Mission Trails focus on success. “We’ve used it for years, and it’s available campus-wide for enhancement, enrichment, as a tutorial, and a learning system for the GED. Our computer lab is staffed by a teacher and counselor who are dedicated to the students, the technology, and the system. PassKey is a great adjunct to their teaching. What’s interesting is that we never have to use behavioral interventions in the lab. We simply don’t have problems there.”

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