

Arizona students catch up, accelerate progress with Stars Suite

GILBERT, Ariz.— College pennants and posters line the Gilbert Unified School District's Distance Learning office. A bank of computers is nestled snugly against one wall, hidden behind a row of bookcases.

It took David Reed nearly four years to build up this program, but thanks to EdOptions' Web-based products and a willing school district, he accomplished his dream.

"I worked in alternative education for eight years and many students end up there who shouldn't have been there, but it was their only option," said Reed, the program's former administrator.

Now, students deficient in core classes can quickly enroll and catch up on credits while attending their own school, he said.

"We had sophomores with no credit sign up for the online courses, successfully complete them, and graduate on time," Reed said.

For more than ten years, hundreds of schools systems nationwide have turned to EdOptions to provide their students with the highest quality Web-based educational products.

Products such as the company's Stars

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Suite which offers students more class choices and flexibility, while encouraging and maintaining the student-teacher relationship.

Reed researched Web-based curriculum programs for several years before choosing Stars Suite.

"I've almost never had a problem that was not resolved in a few hours," Reed said. "You can't get that support at a lot of other places."

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The Web-based programs are especially popular among high school seniors.

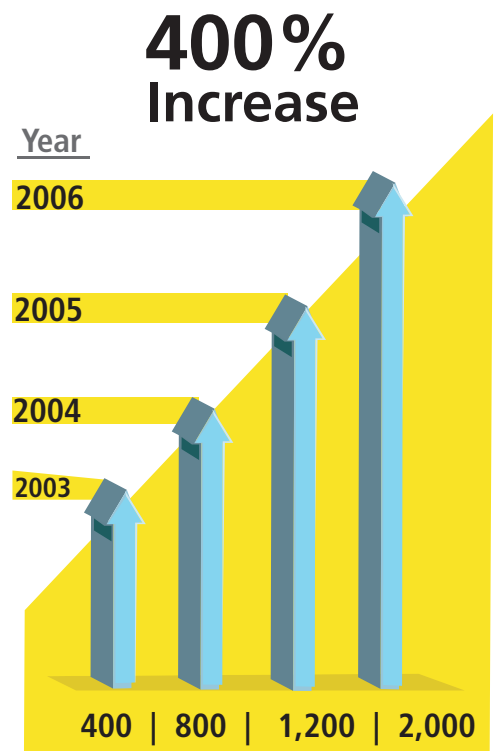
During the 2006-2007 school year, 300 seniors enrolled in 580 online courses so they could graduate on time. Reed said he didn't even have to do heavy marketing; attendance grew just through word of mouth.

For one senior a few years ago, the online program meant he could participate in a study abroad program and still graduate on time.

"We had a student go on foreign exchange to Italy who needed a government and economics class to graduate," he said. "In the past, he would have been forced to return to the U.S. and take summer school courses to

fulfill the required credits before getting his diploma."

Instead, Reed helped the student sign up for the online classes. Within a few months, the student completed the courses and flew back to graduate – on time.



400% Increase
Courses completed
Distance Learning program
in the Gilbert Unified School District

Success Profile:
Gilbert Public Schools
Distance Learning
Gilbert, AZ
District size: 35,000
Previous dropout rate: 2.1%
Post dropout rate: 1.3%



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