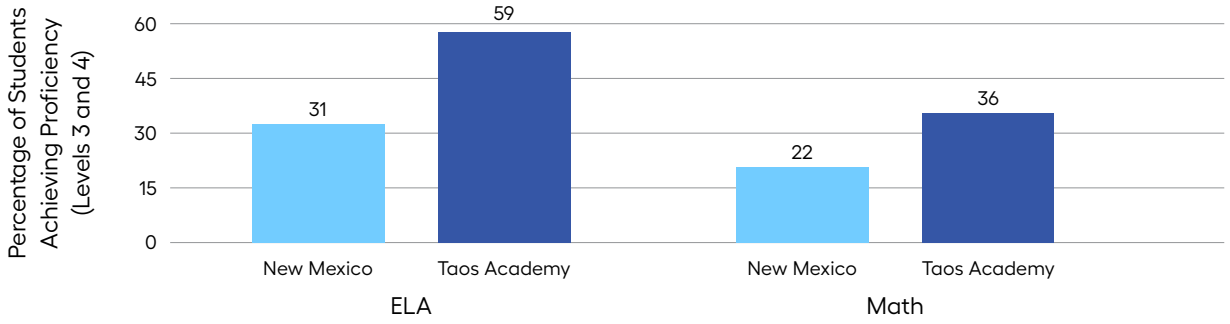
imagine edgenuity

Taos Academy Charter School Students Outperform Their Peers on the State Reading, Mathematics, and Science Exams

During the 2017–2018 school year, Taos Academy Charter School (TACS) used Imagine Edgenuity® courses with 203 students in grades 5 to 12. Students arrive at TACS in 5th or 6th grade performing well below grade level in reading and mathematics. However, within a year of instruction, they perform well above their peers. In 2018, for example, while 59 percent of TACS students achieved proficiency on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) English language arts test, only 30 percent of students did in the state. Similarly, while 36 percent of TACS students achieved proficiency on the 2018 PARCC mathematics test, only 22 percent did in the state (see Figure 1).

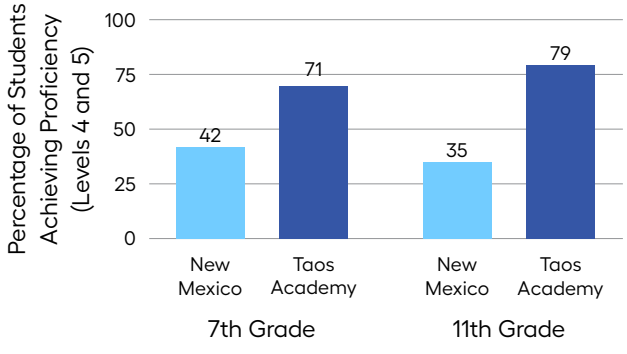
TAOS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL: Enrollment: 203 Students	
Hispanic	50.7%
Caucasian	41.4%
American Indian	3.4%
African American	3%
Asian	1.5%
Economically Disadvantaged	68.5%
Students with Disabilities	12.8%

Figure 1. Percentage Achieving Proficiency on the PARCC ELA and Math Assessments, 2018



When Imagine Edgenuity examined student performance on the 2018 New Mexico Standards Based Assessment (SBA) science exam, results showed a similar trend (see Figure 2). While 71 percent of TACS 7th grade students passed the 2018 SBA science exam, only 42 percent of 7th grade students did in the state. Moreover, while 79 percent of TACS 11th grade students achieved proficiency, only 35 percent of 11th grade students did statewide

Figure 2. Percentage Meeting Proficiency on the SBA Science Assessments, 2018



Challenge

Located in a high-poverty area in rural New Mexico, TACS was created to better prepare underserved students for further work, study, and citizenship in the 21st century. Founders Traci Fliss and Karin Moulton wanted to offer a hybrid instructional model where students take online courses at home or school but also receive face-to-face instruction from teachers, peers, and community members.

Solution

The school began researching online learning programs and selected Edgenuity for its core curriculum. Students are expected to spend 20 hours each week using Imagine Edgenuity online courses. They spend anywhere from two to five days a week on campus, depending on their individual situation and family needs. Middle school students typically attend on Mondays and Wednesdays and high school students come to school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Lessons Learned

Anecdotal and quantitative evidence show that Imagine Edgenuity is having a positive impact on student learning.

The program has helped to:

- **Sustain academic gains:** Each year, public schools in New Mexico are given a grade by the New Mexico Public Education Department based on test participation, reading and math scores, and other academic indicators. For the fifth year in a row, Taos Academy was issued an "A" grade by the state in 2018.
- **Contextualize learning:** The school has developed close partnerships with community experts who work with teachers to design and deliver an array of classes, ranging from "Robo-Band" and "Audio Engineering" to "Cyber Arts" and "Kinetic Sculpture." These classes help contextualize learning to see how traditional subject matter can be applied in novel ways and in work-based settings.
- **Build executive function:** While at school, students attend advisory sessions where they receive help with their online coursework. They work directly with teachers to set goals, strengthen their work habits, and develop time management skills.
- **Create an early warning system:** School leaders pull a report from Imagine Edgenuity's learning management system to flag students whose grades drop below 70 percent. They then create a 30-day "Student Success Contract" for students who don't meet the benchmark. During the 30-day period, the student is on campus five days a week and gets tutoring until performance improves.