

Colorado Youth Get a Foot Up
with ODYSSEYWARE!

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PROFILE

SCHOOL

Name: Marvin W. Foote Youth Services Center

Location: Englewood, Colorado (Denver, Colorado)

Location Type: City Suburban

ODYSSEYWARE

Enrollment: Varies (up to 80 students)

Focus: Credit Recovery, Alternative Learning, At-Risk Learners, Traditional Education

Grade level: Varies (ages 10-20)

Period Examined: Fall 2010 semester

“ My favorite thing about ODYSSEYWARE is that you are able to move through at your own pace. I would recommend it to other schools. ”

Student, Foote Youth Center

BACKGROUND

Marvin W. Foote Youth Services Center is a multi-purpose facility with services and programs for detained and committed youth. The program's mission is to supervise juvenile offenders, promote offender accountability, and build life skills. Foote Youth Center is a secure 118-bed detention facility that houses male and female youth from ages 10 through 18 and also offers short-term treatment for committed youth from ages 12-20. Helping to provide a positive environment, Foote Youth Center's purpose is to help turn troubled lives around and to give opportunities for success, despite previous poor life choices.

CHALLENGE

As a juvenile corrections facility, Foote Youth Center has a student body that is varied in age range and grade level. The student body can also fluctuate greatly throughout the year, dependent on the number of youth committed or detained. Youth could be detained for several hours or several years. For this reason, the program requires a dynamic, scalable curriculum that can be customized easily to meet varying grade levels. Teachers also need a way to simply diagnose student grade levels to ensure correct class placement.

APPROACH

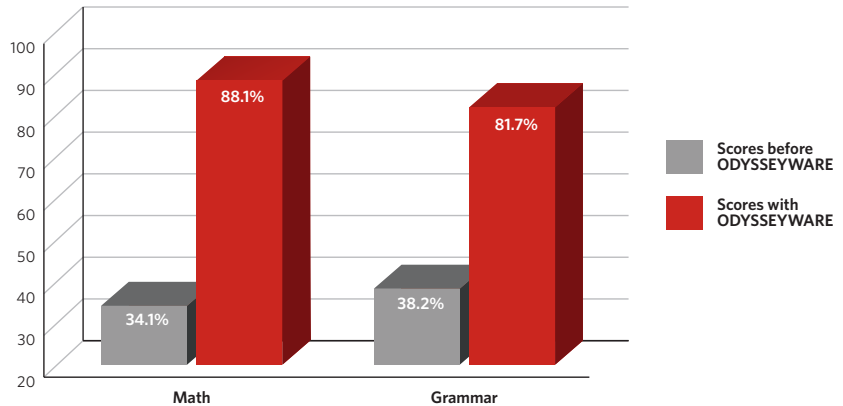
At-risk youth have the opportunity to further their education while at Foote Youth Center. The local school district provides licensed teachers who use ODYSSEYWARE Essentials of Mathematics and Language Arts as well as Skills Diagnostic Tests to correctly place students within the ODYSSEYWARE curriculum. Teachers can easily create an individualized learning plan based on unique student needs and current grade level.

Committed and detained youth can earn credits necessary to receive a high school diploma or obtain a General Equivalency Diploma (GED). With ODYSSEYWARE, students can be assigned the exact courses they need for graduation. Foote Youth Center teachers utilize a standard core curriculum of math and language arts with a focus on developing vocational interests. The program's goal is to get all students to an eighth grade level and then to offer credit recovery to ninth graders and up.

ODYSSEYWARE is an important partner with Foote Youth Center in providing an individualized education, with customizable options that allow teachers to create courses and adjust lesson pacing around students. Diagnostic testing assures teachers that students will be placed at the correct level within lesson content to avoid learning gaps and maximize progress. Administration tools integrated into ODYSSEYWARE, like automatic grading, lesson planning, and report generation, allow teachers to focus more on students and less on paperwork.

CONCLUSION

The following graph shows Foote Youth Center's growth in mastery and comprehension of grammar and mathematics skills in the fall semester of 2010 after using ODYSSEYWARE:



ODYSSEYWARE's motivating online lessons helped students at Foote Youth Center grow math and grammar skills by amazingly large triple digit percentages. In math, student test scores increased by an astounding 266.3% and in grammar scores increased by an impressive 155.6%. Not only did the scores show that students increased their knowledge base with ODYSSEYWARE, but a student survey also showed that learners love ODYSSEYWARE's dynamic learning environment on the computer. Students found the curriculum to be easy to navigate and engaging in material presentation.

In a student survey, respondents at Foote Youth Center felt positive about ODYSSEYWARE curriculum. Students rated ODYSSEYWARE's lessons as satisfactory in the multiple areas of knowledge gain, ease of navigation, and engagement of materials. Eighty-six percent of respondents said they learned a lot or a fair amount, 81% said the curriculum was very easy or fairly easy to navigate, and 69% said the material was very or fairly engaging.

With ODYSSEYWARE, Foote Youth Center is helping at-risk students recover credits and earn their high school diploma or GED. More than that, ODYSSEYWARE is giving students a second chance for future success in life—no matter the past. ODYSSEYWARE is not only helping these students get back on their feet, but it's helping to give them a foot up on life with a strong education!