

Research Brief

Gainesville High School

GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

Edgenuity Students Excel on the Georgia High School Graduation Test

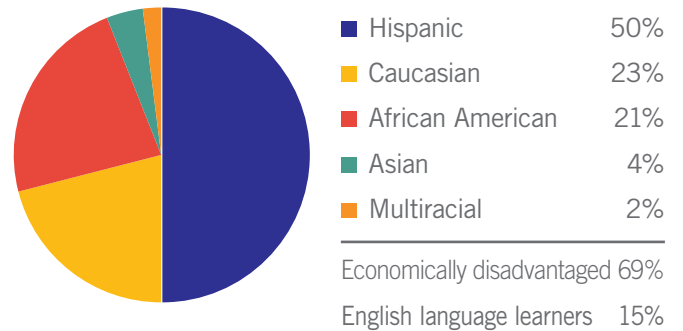
Evaluation Overview

Grades: 9–12

Model: Flex Model

Measure: Graduation data, Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT)

School Demographics



School Overview

Located 50 miles outside of Atlanta, Gainesville High School (GHS) serves 1,575 students in grades 9–12. GHS is a diverse school. Approximately 77 percent of GHS students are minorities, 69 percent are economically disadvantaged, and 15 percent are English language learners.

Implementation

In 2005, GHS sought an innovative online learning program to provide students with test preparation and credit recovery. While the school had a higher-than-average graduation rate, there was a small group of students who were credit-deficient and at risk of not graduating on time. After considering several online learning programs, GHS selected Edgenuity because of its explicit instructional videos featuring certified, on-screen teachers.

Courses were offered in two computer labs, in five 50-minute periods, five days a week. In the lab, students were grouped by grade level. In fall 2011, 10th and 11th grade students took Edgenuity courses to recover credits. In spring 2012, 12th grade students took Edgenuity core and elective courses. In addition, 11th and 12th grade students worked on Edgenuity courses to prepare for the Georgia High School Graduation Test.

Certified teachers trained in Edgenuity's learning management system supervised each lab and monitored student progress and achievement. In the lab, teachers answered questions, clarified content, and offered individual instruction. Students could also seek additional support from highly qualified English, mathematics, science, and social studies teachers who taught traditional face-to-face classes.

Study Sample

A total of 242 high school students comprise the sample described in this report. Of these, 56 percent were Hispanic, 26 percent were African American, 14 percent were Caucasian, 2 percent were Asian, and 2 percent were multiracial. Further, 71 percent of students were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

Measures

Edgenuity Program Data

Edgenuity's learning management system tracks student progress, engagement, and achievement data. This study collected data on the total number of attempted courses, the average percentage of activities completed, and the average overall grade of students during the 2012–2013 school year.

Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT)

Students seeking a Georgia high school diploma must pass the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT) in five areas: English language arts, science, social studies, mathematics, and writing. GHSGT tests report scale scores and achievement as one of four performance levels (Below Proficiency, Basic Proficiency, Advanced Proficiency, and Honors). A score of Proficiency or higher constitutes passing on the test. Spring 2012 GHSGT scale score data in English language arts, science, mathematics, writing and social studies were collected for 11th and 12th grade students.

Graduation Results

Edgenuity tracked enrollment status, as well as the number of students who graduated in spring 2012.

Results

Participation Level

Course usage data were collected and analyzed from 250 GHS students in grades 9–12 who used Edgenuity courses. Table 1 provides descriptive data on program use. Overall, students completed 73 percent of their courses.

Table 1: Gainesville High School Students, (N = 242)

Course Usage Data from August 8, 2011 to May 15, 2012

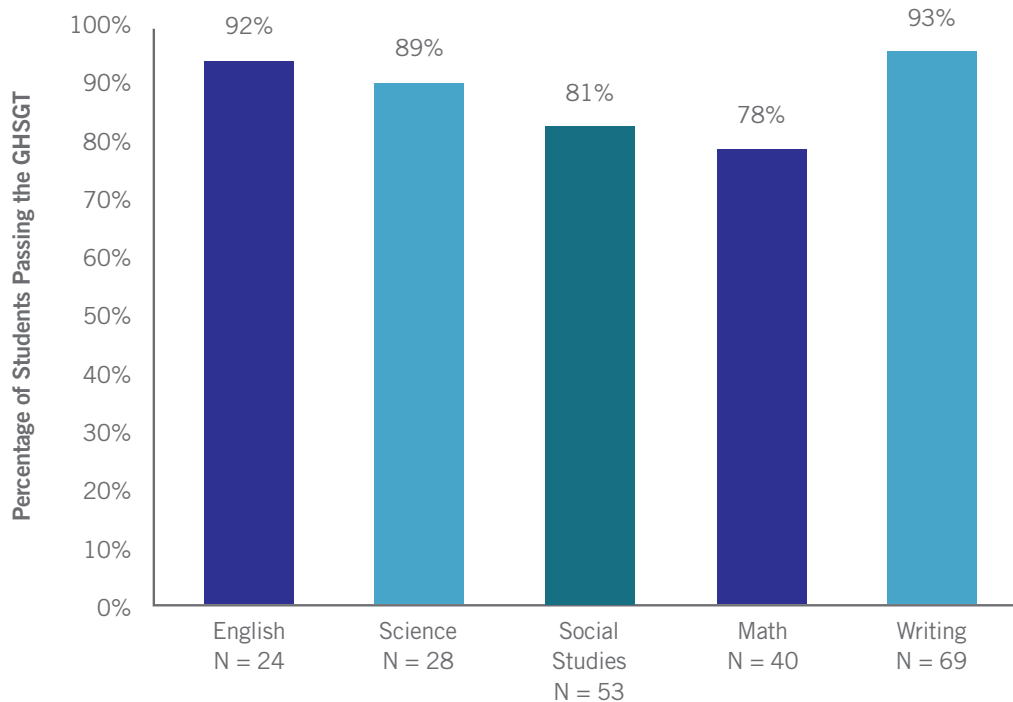
N	Total Number of Courses	Average Percentage of Course Completed	Average Overall Grade
242	486	73%	82%

Georgia High School Graduation Tests

Data were also collected from 81 Edgenuity students who took the spring 2012 GHSGT. The majority of students in this sample did not pass the spring 2011 test and retested in spring 2012. Results show that more than three-quarters of students passed each test (see Graph 1).

Graph 1: Gainesville High School Edgenuity Students, Grades 11–12, (N = 81)

Percentage Passing the GHSGT English, Science, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Writing Tests in 2012



Graduation and Enrollment Data

In addition, graduation and drop-out data were provided for 75 12th grade students. Results show that 91 percent of students graduated and none dropped out (see Table 2).

Table 2: Gainesville High School Edgenuity Students, Grade 12 (N = 75)

Graduation and Dropout Data

Grade	N	Dropped Out	Graduated
12	75	0	68

Conclusion

This study assessed evidence from multiple measures to evaluate the impact of Edgenuity courses on student achievement. Findings indicate that students' participation in Edgenuity courses resulted in positive outcomes. On average, students earned an overall grade of 82 percent. The large majority of courses that were attempted were completed. Further, more than 75 percent of students passed their GHSGT assessment. Additionally, 91 percent of the at-risk 12th grade students graduated on time and none dropped out. These preliminary results suggest that Edgenuity courses had a beneficial effect on student achievement.