

Research Brief

Park City Independent School

OREM, UTAH

Edgenuity Students Outperform State and National Peers on the ACT®

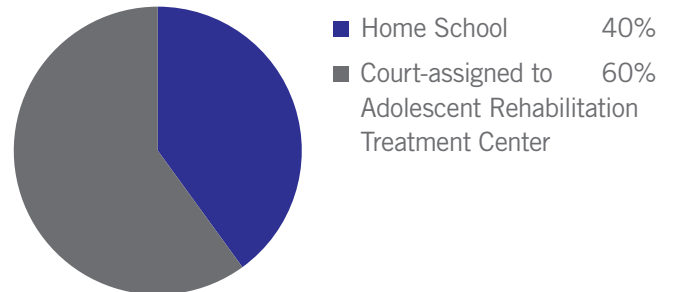
Evaluation Overview

Grades: 6–12

Model: Self-Blend Model

Measure: ACT

School Demographics



School Overview

Park City Independent School is a fully accredited, private, year-round alternative online school for students in grades 6–12.

Approximately 40 percent are homeschool students and the remaining 60 percent are court-assigned to an adolescent rehabilitation treatment center.

Implementation

In 2008, Park City Independent began using Edgenuity Instructional Services for its core curriculum and electives. Homeschool students can access Edgenuity virtual-school courses 24 hours a day, seven days a week from their personal computers. They are expected to spend at least five hours a week on each Edgenuity course. Students attending adolescent treatment centers use Edgenuity courses in a computer lab two hours a day for five days a week. In addition to taking core courses, students have access to the Edgenuity ACT preparation course. Additionally, students enrolled in traditional high schools across the country participate in PCI's ACT preparation program and other Edgenuity courses.

Study Sample

1,029 students in grades 6–12 comprise the sample described in this report.



On the English Composition subtest of the ACT, 84 percent of PCI students met ACT benchmark scores. This was 17 percent higher than the reported national average and 20 percent higher than the reported statewide average.

Measures

Edgenuity Program Data

Edgenuity's learning management system tracks student engagement, progress, and achievement data. This study collected data on the total number of attempted courses, the total number of courses completed, and the average overall grade of students.

ACT

The ACT is a curriculum- and standards-based educational and career planning test that assesses students' academic readiness for college. The test consists of four multiple-choice sub-tests: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. It provides a benchmark for the minimum score needed for students to be ready for college-level coursework.

Results

Participation Level

Edgenuity Virtual Classroom course usage data were collected from 1,029 students. Results indicated that 93 percent of students successfully completed courses. Furthermore, results revealed that Edgenuity students received an average overall grade of 81 percent (see Table 1). When results were disaggregated by subject, data showed there was remarkable consistency among course exposure, completion rates, and grades (see Table 2).

ACT results

Data were collected from 19 juniors and seniors who took the ACT. An analysis of ACT data indicated that Park City Independent Edgenuity students outperformed their national and state peers across all content areas. For example, on the English Composition subtest of the ACT, 84 percent of PCI students met ACT benchmark scores. This was 17 percent higher than the reported national average and 20 percent higher than the reported statewide average (Figure 1).

Table 1. Park City Independent School Students, Grades 6–12 (N = 1,029)

Edgenuity Course Usage Data by Grade From January 1, 2010–July 1, 2012

Grade Level	Number of Students (N)	Average Overall Grade	Percent of Course Completed
All Grades (6–12)	1,029	81%	93%

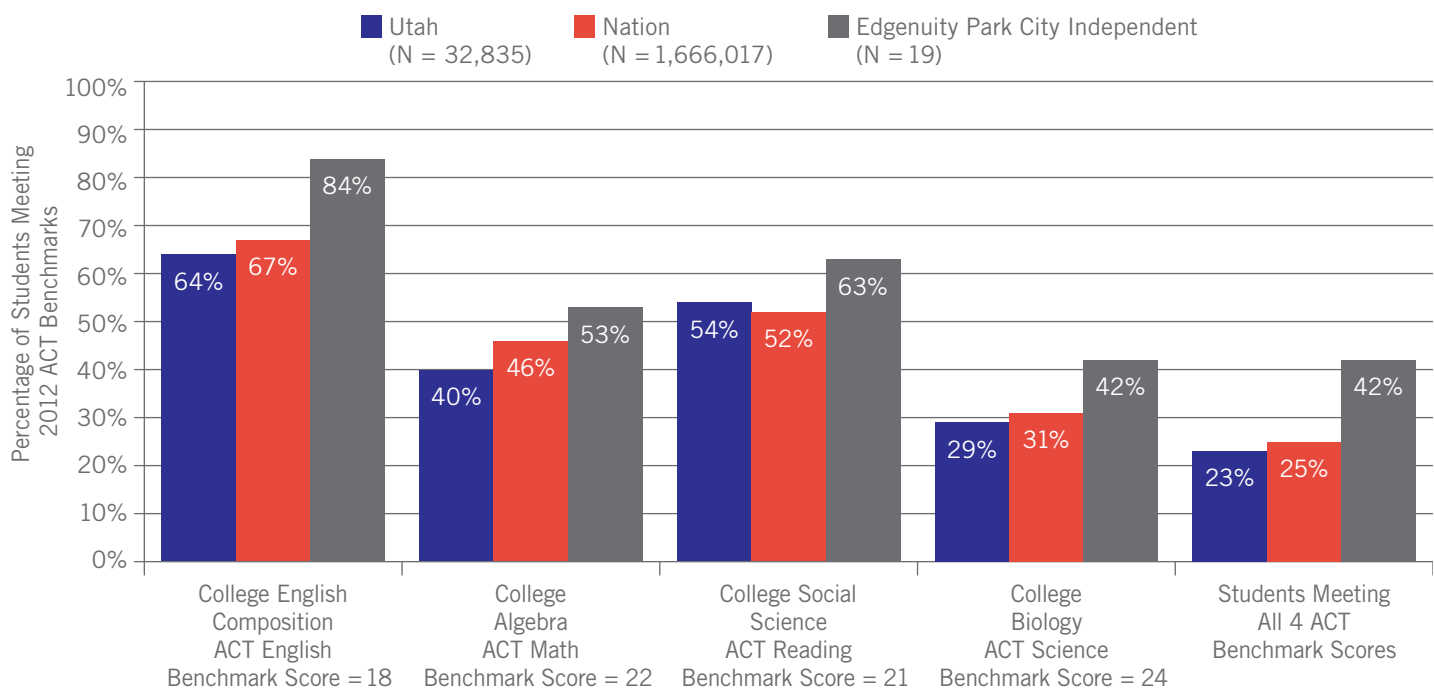
Table 2. Park City Independent School Students, Grades 6–12 (N = 1,029)

Edgenuity Course Usage Data by Subject From January 1, 2010–July 1, 2012

Course Name	Number of Course Enrollments	Average Overall Grade	Percent of Course Completed
Electives	968	83%	97%
English Language Arts	852	80%	94%
Math	166	76%	79%
Science	607	79%	91%
Social Studies	765	80%	93%
Total	3,358	81%	93%

Figure 1. Park City Independent Students, Students Statewide, and Students Nationwide

Percentage of Students Meeting Benchmarks in 2012



* A benchmark score is the minimum score on an ACT subject area test to indicate a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college course.

Conclusion

Results indicated that Park City Independent students were successful with their Edgenuity coursework. Students outperformed their state and national peers on the ACT.