Case Study
Cactus Shadows High School

SCOTTSDALE, AZ

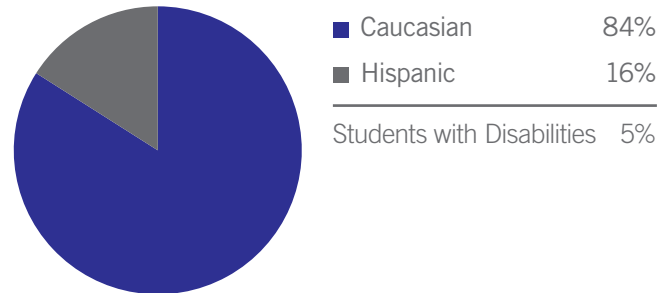**Edgenuity**™
where learning clicks

Can online learning programs curtail dropout rates?

Problem: An increasing number of at-risk students were failing to meet graduation requirements.

Solution: A blended learning school leveraged Edgenuity courses to support students who were not successful in a traditional setting.

Outcome: Personalized attention increased credit recovery and graduation rates.

School Demographics

■ Caucasian	84%
■ Hispanic	16%

Students with Disabilities   5%

Background

Located in Scottsdale, Arizona, the Cave Creek School District is rated an "A+ School of Excellence" by the Arizona Department of Education. While the district has a higher-than-average graduation rate, there was a small group of students who persistently failed courses and did not graduate on time. To combat the problem and provide alternative options, district administrators created a smaller online learning program within the brick-and-mortar school. With Edgenuity at the center of its curriculum, Cactus Shadows High School harnessed the power of technology to support their at-risk population.

Online Response Ability

The new online program enrolled at-risk upperclassmen in Edgenuity courses for four hours a day, five days a week. Students were required to sign contracts agreeing to use the courses regularly and comply with district academic and behavioral requirements.

Edgenuity courses provided more flexibility and more course options to keep students engaged and focused academically. Instead of just sitting and reading text materials, students were able to view online video clips of highly qualified teachers delivering direct instruction. Students could also learn at their own pace, pausing to take notes or rewinding the video to review a concept or lesson.

"Parents told me that their child would have dropped out of high school if they had not been part of the Edgenuity program."

Gina Durbin, Director of Student Support in the District

Edgenuity Research

Edgenuity has empowered more students to complete the credits they need to graduate on time. For example, data from the 2011–2012 school year indicates that 59 students enrolled in 439 courses. Approximately 99% of those students completed these courses with passing rates. Further, 15 out of the 17 enrolled seniors graduated that year.

for 2011-2012

99% of enrolled students **passed**

99%

&

15 out of **17** seniors graduated

Increased Teacher Engagement

Edgenuity also enabled teachers to more closely monitor at-risk students' learning. Data collected in the Web Administrator, Edgenuity's learning management system, allowed teachers to more proactively diagnose and treat student learning deficits. Teachers became more involved in overseeing student progress, providing tutoring, re-teaching difficult material, motivating student learning, and communicating with students via email.

Gina Durbin, Director of Student Support in the District, reported that students from Cactus Shadows were increasingly going on to community colleges and four-year institutions. "Parents told me that their child would have dropped out of high school if they had not been part of the Edgenuity program," said Durbin.