lumos learning
Developed by Expert Teachers

SCLS Helps Improve Student Acheivement On The Standardized Tests using The Lumos Learning Database
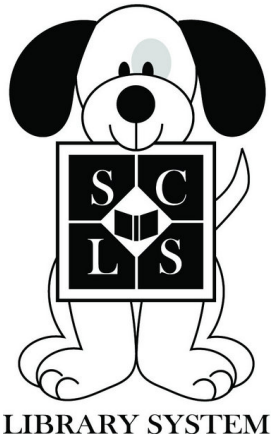
Profile

Somerset County Library System*

Member Libraries: 10

Years of Service: 21

Branches:
BoundBrook,
Bridgewater,
Hillsborough,
Manville,
Mary Jacobs,
North Plainfield,
Peapvack,
Rocky Hill,
Somerville,
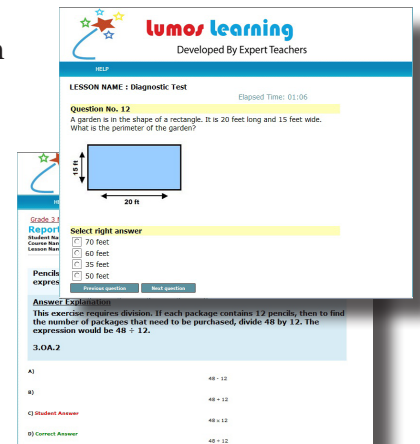Warren and Watchung.

Population Served: over 161,755 residents

Member Municipalities: 14

***Named a Star Library by Library Journal**

SOMERSET COUNTY

S C L S

LIBRARY SYSTEM

Somerset County Library System implemented the Lumos Learning Library Database Program in 2007 to help their patrons in elementary and middle school prepare for the New Jersey's standardized test and to supplement classroom learning. In an interview with Jennifer Dermer, Dr. Marna Elliot, Branch Director at SCLS said "We were the first library in New Jersey that had the program. Parents were asking for some sort of test preparation materials. When we researched different programs, Lumos Learning was the only one who had something specifically for the NJ ASK test. They met a niche that wasn't provided by anyone else." When asked if there were additional reasons for selecting the Lumos Program Dr. Elliott elaborated, "We also liked the program as it has the online component. Because there was a large demand, having workbooks only wouldn't work. Students would have to wait in line for the books, as we wouldn't have been able to order enough workbooks for everyone asking. So, the online source is great. Students can use it where and when they want."

Problem

Patrons of SCLS were requesting standardized test (NJ ASK*) preparation help. It was a growing demand and the one which needed immediate attention. Since the test prep demand was large and time sensitive (March - May), purchasing printed workbooks was not a practical solution.

New Jersey Assessments of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) is the standardized test administered in the New Jersey public schools. It is given every year to students in grade 3 through 8. Subjects tested include Mathematics, Science and Language Arts Literacy.

Solution

To help elementary and middle school students in the Somerset County prepare for the NJ ASK test SCLS leadership team obtained subscription to the Lumos Learning Supplemental Database Program in 2007. The solution was rapidly implemented and patrons were able to access the program using a library or home computer after a simple registration using their library card number. Each student was able to create a personal account and securely access practice tests and workbooks. Practice Tests provide realistic test practice and an opportunity to easily diagnose students areas of difficulty. The workbooks helped reinforce classroom learning all year long and were used to help students get additional practice in topics where they were having difficulty.

The Lumos program is interactive and provides immediate feedback to students to promote learning. It allows students to prepare at a pace that is right for the individual student. The performance of the student is tracked throughout the entire program. The reports can be reviewed by parents and students to facilitate collaborative learning. Students in Grade 3 to 8 were provided access to both Math and English Language Arts Literacy.

Supporting Student Achievement

Lumos Database was well received by the students, parents and educators in the community. While answering a question about the success of the program and how it was received by the community Dr. Elliott said, "It's been 5 years since we've had the program and we have noticed that the quality of the program has become better and better over the years. The parents are really pleased with it. I asked my fellow librarians for feedback about the program and basically they just said that they are grateful to have it. They get a lot of requests from parents and they are able to fill that need."

Transition to the New Common Core State Standards

New Jersey is one of the 45 states that has adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The schools are transitioning from the previous New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJ CCCS) to the new

CCSS. The current Lumos Database program is aligned with the new CCSS. It is providing the supplemental assessments and instruction that is aligned with the CCSS. It is an excellent resource that helps both students and teachers as they transition to the new curriculum standards. Parents use it to monitor the child's progress and assist them

Measurable Return On Investment

Due to budget shortfalls, libraries have found it increasingly difficult to maintain their current services let alone invest in new learning resources. Lumos Electronic Database resources are affordable and return on investment could be monitored. As Dr.Elliot put it, "We keep statistics on what is used and not used at the library. We have something we call costs per click and we're able to see how much the Lumos Learning program is used. It's not necessarily used throughout the entire year, but when it's used right before testing begins, it's used so much that the usage justifies its existence." The usage of Lumos database program is significantly higher compared to that of the traditional print titles.

"We used the Lumos Program this year for my daughter's NJ ASK preparation. My daughter got the perfect score! I highly recommend it."

Li, Parent, Bridgewater