

The state of Nevada uses the ACT exam as their college and career readiness assessment. All high school juniors attending public schools are required to take the ACT in the spring. Students who score at least a 22 on the math section of the ACT are allowed to move directly into college credit-bearing math courses at public colleges and universities in Nevada with no need to sit for a placement exam or enroll in remedial classes. Math teacher Sarada Toomey at Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy (a public charter school) has been using EdReady to help her students prepare for the ACT.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

Toomey is using EdReady’s ACT Prep with high school juniors and seniors. Her students’ median initial diagnostic score in EdReady was low (47), indicating a need for review of math skills in her Algebra 2 courses.

“I have been diligent in using EdReady on a consistent basis,” says Toomey, who started using the program in late January 2016, once she acquired enough laptops in her classroom for every student to be working 1:1. She then scheduled time to work on EdReady in class every Wednesday for the entire 50-minute class period in preparation for Nevada’s March 1st ACT administration date. To add accountability, she tied students’ progress in EdReady to their mid-term grade for the class.

Although the March exam date has passed, Toomey is continuing to use EdReady in class, but only every couple of weeks, to help students continue to hone their skills. Once students have reached the target score of 90, she encourages them to keep moving forward to reach 100% mastery of the content.

.....  
**“This last ACT test, they felt ready for the math.”**



—Sarada Toomey, math teacher, Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy



**DETAILS**

**WHO WAS SERVED:** High school juniors and seniors who were preparing for the ACT exam

**WHEN:** January to June 2016  
(in progress)

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS:** 77

**IMPLEMENTATION:** Working independently during a standard class period every Wednesday, with supervision, assistance, and encouragement from the classroom teacher

**INSTRUCTIONAL APPLICATION:** Test prep in a traditional high school math class with each student using a laptop

**RESULTS**

In EdReady, the “Prepare for the ACT” goal encompasses all 19 Developmental Math units offered in the program, from whole numbers through trigonometry. Toomey takes time to speak with the students about their progress in EdReady, and shows them their individual results from the program. This helps students understand that the time they’ve spent studying corresponds to the progress they’ve made to date.

Although the students are still working, after only 13 weeks of having access to EdReady, 23 of the 77 students have reached or exceeded the target score of 90; another 26 are within nine points of reaching the target. The median score for the students has jumped from a 47 (on a 100-point scale\*) on the initial diagnostic to an 84, with more progress expected as the semester unfolds. The average score gain to date is 33 points.

**WHAT'S NEXT**

As far as next year," says Toomey, "I am planning on using it in my classroom in the same way. We will be using it with our seniors as well in the College Readiness program." ■

*\*If a student scores 100 points, he or she has achieved 100% mastery of all of the content in the curriculum for his or her class.*

**FIGURES: Aggregate progress, as of April 24, for all 77 students in Toomey's Algebra 2 courses who finished the initial diagnostic**

