



Research Establishes Kid's College Effective for Improving AYP Results in At-Risk Rural School Districts

April 14, 2010 – Birmingham, AL – A new research study by Measure2Learn confirms reading and mathematics achievement growth and improved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in at-risk rural school districts as a result of utilizing the Kid's College online student intervention and instructional program.

Research findings in the State of Alabama demonstrate that in 2008-2009, 12 out of 16 low-performing schools using Kid's College and who had not made AYP for two years prior made AYP for the first time in three years.

This research is consistent with data from rural districts in other states such as Mississippi, where Kid's College has effectively assisted at-risk students in economically disadvantaged areas with moving up the learning continuum faster than other intervention programs.

For five rural Alabama schools that have continuously implemented Kid's College in their classrooms since 2006-2007, the impact on their percent of students at or above proficiency beats the state percent in 12 out of 17 categories (grade by subject) in reading and 11 out of 17 categories (grade by subject) in mathematics.

Margaret Jorgensen, Ph.D., author of the study and CEO of Measure2Learn, analyzes the five core components that are driving Kid's College to deliver a unique, differentiated instructional program that achieves results for at-risk students in K-12.

According to Jorgensen, these five components include 1) a standards-based assessment used to identify individual student strengths and weaknesses, 2) an adaptive intervention program which automatically scaffolds students up or down the curriculum as needed, 3) custom online curriculum written specifically to core state standards, 4) printable, customized instructional worksheets, and 5) engaging sports video games as reward and recognition for time spent learning.

Currently in Alabama, 156 schools and 63 after school programs are utilizing Kid's College, a growth of 165 percent since the first Alabama schools implemented the online tool in 2006. In the 2008-09 school year, students collectively answered more than 39 million Alabama standards-based skills questions to help them prepare for the ARMT (Alabama Reading and Mathematics Test). As of spring 2010, Alabama students are well on track to surpass this number, foreshadowing continued AYP achievement growth in the state.

Jorgensen's study also delves into the personal story of one at-risk student who faced tremendous obstacles to becoming engaged in school. Rashad, a fifth grader, increased his proficiency in specific skills sets by three grade levels using Kid's College. Remarkably, Rashad spent 80 percent of his total time working in the program before or after normal school hours, at his own will.

The complete research study titled, "Research Findings on the Impact of Kid's College on Student Achievement in Alabama," is available online at <http://www.ltskc.com/research.php> or by request to Learning Through Sports (toll-free: 1-866-552-9192).

About Kid's College

Kid's College® online, core standards-based Math and Literacy curriculum is proven to improve test scores and motivate diverse learners, including at-risk and special needs students and those in urban, suburban and rural settings. Kid's College accomplishes this by providing self-paced, differentiated and adaptive instruction combined with graphically-sophisticated, popular sports video games as a fun way to reinforce skills practice. Today's digital generation responds to this unique approach to learning that appeals to their inherent interests in sports, technology and interactive video games. To learn more, visit www.ltskc.com.

About Margaret Jorgensen, Ph.D.

Dr. Margaret Jorgensen is a leading authority and author on assessment for K-12 education. She has developed hundreds of criterion-referenced, standards-based, and norm-referenced tests for K-12. She has worked for Educational Testing Service and ACT, and led education products in the K-12 assessment space for Harcourt Assessment. Dr. Jorgensen's complete bio is available in her independent research studies at <http://www.ltskc.com/research.php>.

Media Contact

Amy Frith, Learning Through Sports
Phone: 1-866-552-9192, ext. 1011
Email: afriith@learningthroughsports.com
Web: www.learningthroughsports.com