



368

STUDENTS



99%

FREE AND  
REDUCED LUNCH



21%

INCREASE IN  
STUDENTS ON  
TRACK FOR CCR



125L

AVERAGE  
LEXILE® GAINS



## CARVER ELEMENTARY TRANSFORMS LEARNING WITH TITLE I AND ACHIEVE3000

### Introduction

If there's any doubt that a strong home life and community contribute to academic success, the story of George Washington Carver Elementary School in Yuma, Arizona is sure to bring some clarity.

A K-6 school with 500 students, Carver Elementary was once the "centerpiece of a blighted neighborhood"—something the community has worked hard to change since the year 2000, according to Principal Deb Drysdale-Elias. "There was a movement to change the neighborhood," she said. "The community built safe, affordable housing to replace dilapidated buildings, and then we began to see growth in academics and student achievement."

Around this time, the school also implemented Achieve3000®, which Deb says was a major contributor to that achievement, and part of the solution to the struggles students were facing at home and school. "Achieve3000 was part of meeting those challenges head on," she said.

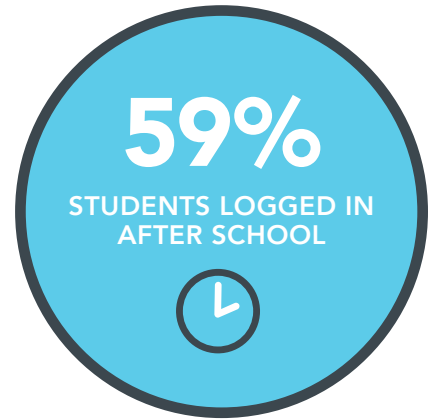
### TIGHT BUDGETS AND FAILED AYP

Before Deb discovered Achieve3000, she found herself in the middle of a budget crisis, and with a school that failed to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). "Arizona schools had no money, but we did have Title I funds," said Deb. When thinking about how she could use those funds to turn their school around, she wanted to be sure she invested in something that the school would be able to fund for the long term. "You get the money in January or February, and you can't hire staff because you don't know if you'll have funding next year," she said. So, she decided to look at the equipment and programs that were available instead. "I was going to spend all that money on a program, so I asked myself: 'What's the best thing out there?'"

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implementation."**



ACHIEVE3000®



## THE CASE FOR DIFFERENTIATION

Deb remembers that she first heard about Achieve3000 during a training delivered by Apple about seven years ago. At one point, the trainer showcased Achieve3000. Deb was interested in learning more about differentiation, so she contacted the company for more information.

That same afternoon, an Achieve3000 rep was at her school. “She taught me about Lexile scores and the power of differentiated instruction. I’d never heard of that before,” recalls Deb. Following the Achieve3000 demonstration, Deb said they looked at cheaper, district-recommended solutions as well. “We had a powerful base to say, ‘But where’s the differentiation?’” But differentiation isn’t all that drew Deb and her teachers to the program.

“When we first heard about the Common Core—and that students must be exposed to 50 percent informational text—we didn’t see anyone out there developing programs specifically for capacities under Common Core,” she said. “There was little money, no reading textbook adopted, and the anthology list and core reading were nothing but fiction. Finding informational text for teachers was almost impossible; teachers were on their own.”

Achieve3000 helped fill that gap, she added—seven years before anyone else was doing it. “The Common Core is about measuring growth using Lexile scores,” she said. “Here was Achieve3000 before Common Core became an Arizona state thing. They had the people who wrote the Common Core on their board.” Deb was also impressed with how Achieve3000 “stays ahead of national trends and national research.”

## ACHIEVE3000 GOES DISTRICT-WIDE

When the decision was made to implement Achieve3000, Carver Elementary began with a two-year license. “We showed two and a half years’ growth in the first year of implementation,” Deb recalls. “I remember thinking that no matter what happens, I must always be sure I have enough money for Achieve3000!”

Fast-forward several years, and now every student in grades 2 through 8 across the district is using the program. “You get the full gamut in K-2 of learning how to read,” said Deb. “After that, you need a program to teach kids to learn. Achieve3000 is that program.”

Deb explained that the school uses Achieve3000 in both whole- and small-group instruction. “We’ll do a group lesson that might include finding the main idea, or introducing vocabulary, and use our Promethean board to see it in a large format,” she said. “When the lesson is over, students do their own lesson on their iPad at their reading level that is differentiated. There are a million articles and a million ways to drive home the focus skill, at every child’s ability level,” she said.

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## About Achieve3000

Achieve3000 is the leader in online differentiated literacy instruction, serving nearly three million students worldwide. Based on decades of scientific research, Achieve3000’s patented and proven literacy program reaches all students at their individual reading levels to significantly accelerate learning and dramatically increase college and career readiness.