



In Patchogue-Medford School District,

93%

of students using TeachTown's standards-first, adapted core curriculum, enCORE, scored proficient on the NYSAA in ELA and Math, compared to 63% of students using a different curriculum.

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
in PATCHOGUE, NY

*A student is required to score a level 3 or 4 to meet NYSAA standards and be considered proficient.

In this customer success story, we will uncover the path that led Patchogue-Medford School District (PMSD) to partner with TeachTown to deliver a whole child approach for their students with moderate to severe disabilities, and what student growth looks like as a result.





INTRODUCTION

The mission of Patchogue-Medford School District (PMSD) is to *provide diverse pathways and varied enrichment opportunities that will lead to meaningful learning experiences for all students*. And, when they say **all**, they mean it.

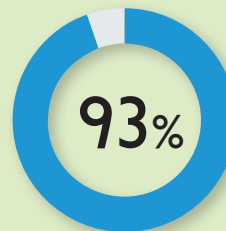
“Our Superintendent has set forth a vision of ‘all means all’ and our school community has taken this to heart.”

- Dr. Lori Goldstein, Director of Special Education,
Patchogue-Medford School District

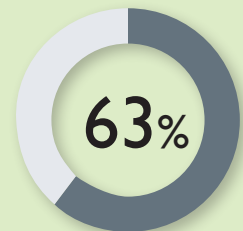
When it came time to evaluate a new curriculum for their students with moderate to severe disabilities, Patchogue-Medford School District knew this was not a decision that they were going to make lightly. In Summer 2023, PMSD opted to participate in a pilot program with 2 different curriculum providers, TeachTown and a competitor, to ensure their need for a high standard of inclusivity and personalized learning would be met.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Using TeachTown’s standards-first, adapted core curriculum, **enCORE**, **93% of students** scored proficient on the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) learning standards compared to **63% of students using the competitor**.



Proficiency using
TeachTown's enCORE



Proficiency using
the competitor

* A student is required to score a level 3 or 4 to meet NYSAA standards and be considered proficient.

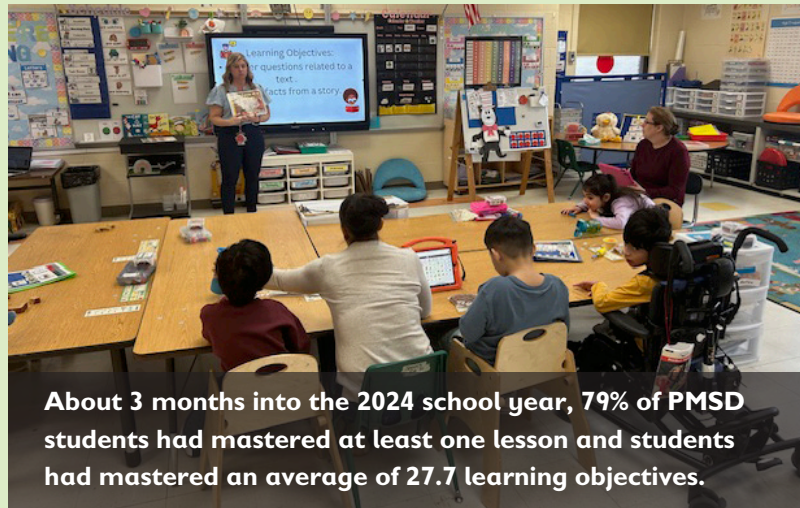
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THE PMSD & TEACHTOWN PARTNERSHIP

Patchogue-Medford School District is located on Long Island, New York and serves more than 7,000 students across 11 schools. Currently, 5 schools are using TeachTown across grades K-6, which entails a total of 10 classrooms within PMSD's academic and career explorers (ACES) program.

PMSD's students who are using TeachTown have significant cognitive disabilities with IQ scores ranging from 55-79.

All of the students in PMSD who are using TeachTown participate in New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA), and many use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices.



About 3 months into the 2024 school year, 79% of PMSD students had mastered at least one lesson and students had mastered an average of 27.7 learning objectives.

*“After reviewing the NYSAA data and comparing the two programs, **the students who participated in the TeachTown pilot outperformed the students who piloted the other program.** As a district, we are very happy to see that our students are meeting or exceeding the NYSAA expectations.”*

- Dr. Jessica Lukas, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Services, Patchogue-Medford School District

DATA THAT TELLS A STORY: IT ALL BEGAN WITH A PILOT

In the summer of 2023, PMSD began a pilot program with TeachTown and another special education curriculum provider. Five PMSD special educators were randomly assigned to implement TeachTown, and 5 special educators were randomly assigned to use a competitor's curriculum.

Throughout the pilot period, PMSD administrators used a survey and periodic check-ins to discuss and compare the programs with the curricula facilitators. One survey response from Dr. Lori Goldstein indicated, “The TeachTown team was very responsive and supportive when there were questions from the teachers, and we did not have the same level of support from the other program.”

After the 6-month pilot, all students across grades 3-6 participated in the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA). Students need to score a level ‘3’ or ‘4’ on the assessment to be considered proficient.

- **With enCORE, 30% more students achieved proficiency on the NYSAA** compared to the competitor.

- Students using enCORE outperformed the competitor in Math, with an average level of 3.13 versus 2.25, and outperformed the competitor in ELA, with an average level of 3.0 versus 2.5.

In addition to NYSAA scores, students using enCORE have reported impressive progress on IEP and academic goals, as well.

“Ultimately, the decision was made to move forward with TeachTown because of the high level of professional development and technical support that was made available to PMSD faculty, the high quality of the instructional materials, the alignment with New York State standards, and the scope and sequence of lessons.” - Dr. Lori Goldstein

The data indicated measurable student growth—a non-negotiable for the district when evaluating a new adapted curriculum.

A WHOLE CHILD APPROACH

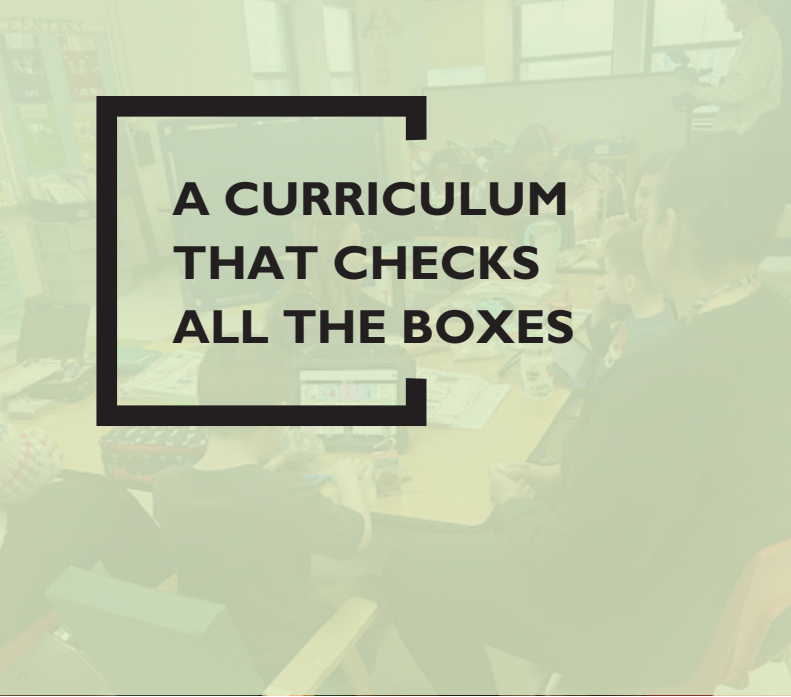
Creating a learning environment that supports *all* students requires a Whole Child Approach to instruction. By implementing TeachTown's award-winning, adapted core curriculum, enCORE, in conjunction with our evidence-based interventions, PMSD is empowering their students to thrive in every aspect of their lives:

- [enCORE](#): A K-12 standards-first, adapted core curriculum that provides students with moderate to severe disabilities equitable, inclusive access to the general education curriculum.
- [TeachTown Basics](#): A blend of computer-delivered and teacher-led instruction proven to increase a student's Adaptive Skills, Cognitive Skills, Language Arts, Language Development, Mathematics, and Social and Emotional Skills.
- [TeachTown Social Skills](#): A comprehensive curriculum that teaches socially-valid skills through animated video-modeling episodes, teacher-delivered lesson plans and student activities.
- [Transition to Adulthood](#): An evidence-based curriculum for students ages 14+ that uses point-of-view video modeling, task analyses, computer-based lessons, teacher-delivered lessons and visual supports teaching a range of essential, functional skills for students with moderate to severe disabilities.

While [Transition to Adulthood](#) is often or typically implemented with transition-age students in middle and high school, many of the skills are appropriate to all students. PMSD uses the program with elementary students to work on skills like making a bed, folding clothes, washing dishes, and making simple foods.



From September 2024–March 2025, PMSD experienced an **average student growth rate of 68%** between pre- and post-test scores across the TeachTown suite of solutions being implemented among students. The average pre-test score was 25.2% and **post-test scores improved to an average of 93.2%**



A CURRICULUM THAT CHECKS ALL THE BOXES



Engaging Lessons & Materials for Students

Focusing on instruction can be a challenge for students, especially those with moderate to severe disabilities. That's why enCORE was designed with student engagement in mind, offering a blend of technology-based and hands-on learning styles, interesting and current event topics, and a variety of built-in reinforcements.

"The feedback regarding enCORE has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting its simplicity and the genuine interest it generates among students. The program offers engaging rewards and videos that not only captivate students but also serve as motivating factors in their learning process." - Lauren Varricchio

Finding a curriculum that meets the various needs of students and educators can feel overwhelming. Let's see how TeachTown aligned to the needs of Patchogue-Medford School District's wishlist:



Standards-Aligned

For PMSD, this was a top priority for Dr. Goldstein, "As an administrator, my goal with TeachTown is to improve student outcomes and support teachers with materials aligned with the NYS standards."

TeachTown aligns with current learning frameworks, state standards, and maintains compliance with federal laws and IEP regulations.

With enCORE, students with disabilities have access to the general education curriculum, providing access to the same standardized skills as their peers.

"I particularly appreciate the distinctive lessons crafted to align with New York State standards, as these will significantly enhance my students' educational experiences and prepare them for future academic success."

- Lauren Varricchio, Special Education Teacher,
Patchogue-Medford School District

PMSD teachers reported successful engagement with enCORE's rich literature library, including Kathleen Powers, Special Education Teacher, Patchogue-Medford School District, "The books from enCORE are a big hit with my students," and Lauren Briggs, Special Education Teacher, Patchogue-Medford School District, "My students love the fiction and non-fiction books."

PMSD also uses enCORE's physical classroom curriculum kits that include lesson plans, workbooks, assessments, manipulatives, and more. The ready-to-go paper goods save teachers time printing and prepping, and the classroom manipulatives provide engaging, hands-on educational experiences for students.

"I love the unit books, vocabulary resources, comprehension worksheets, and the various activities that align with them. The science section is also great, offering a variety of engaging activities that cater to the diverse needs and learning styles of my students. These activities are thoughtfully designed to enhance their understanding of scientific concepts and encourage hands-on exploration, making the learning experience both enjoyable and effective."

- Erin Rotanz, Special Education Teacher,
Patchogue-Medford School District



User-Friendly Technology

The last thing educators want to be tasked with is learning the ins and outs of yet another confusing, time-consuming tech platform. enCORE's instructional technology allows educators the opportunity to deliver the core curriculum in a variety of instructional settings across a range of devices. The TeachTown platform is a one-stop shop for classroom success, including easy access to all printable and technology-based lessons, a comprehensive teacher dashboard, curriculum resources, and data reporting. Special Education Teacher Lauren Varricchio shares, "Prep time has been cut in half which is wonderful. I like how the data is all in one spot. I enjoy utilizing the lessons and the website is user-friendly as well."



Whether it is whole group, small group, or one-to-one instruction, enCORE automates lesson selection for each student and manages delivery of those lessons across all students in a class or group – cycling from student to student and automatically delivering the next lesson in each student's sequence.

"My students are able to utilize the technology part independently. Whole group lessons are simple enough for them to understand and generalize to different settings." - Lauren Varricchio



Instructional Resources for Teachers

TeachTown provides teachers with all of the resources they need to ensure a comprehensive and scaffolding flow of instruction. For PMSD, a cohesive and comprehensive scope and sequence was a top priority, as expressed by Erin Rotanz, "There are several pieces of the enCORE curriculum that I can hardly imagine living without today, such as the well-defined scope and sequence tailored for my students."

In addition, teachers also have access to detailed lesson plans, daily implementation guides, and supplemental materials. These features reduce prep time for teachers and allow other instructors, such as substitutes or paraprofessionals, to jump into instruction with ease.

Erin Rotanz says: "My primary goal with TeachTown is to continually enhance my skills in utilizing the diverse range of resources and tools that the program offers... By doing so, I aim to provide a richer learning experience for my students and make the most out of the educational opportunities presented within this curriculum."

"Initially, we were looking for a curriculum product that aligned with the NYS standards and that would provide ample and engaging materials for the students. We also wanted a teacher-friendly system that would provide teachers with a scope and sequence and professional development." - Dr. Lori Goldstein



Professional Development

TeachTown offers various types of professional services — on-site training, webinars, online courses and more — that support our curricula and improve student outcomes. Our professional development opportunities include site-specific trainings on how to use the product as well as special education tips and strategies from experts in the field.

“The coaching and training we received were excellent. They simplified the program’s process, which helped alleviate my anxiety about introducing this new curriculum. The enCORE representatives are fantastic; they are always eager to assist with the curriculum’s implementation.” - Erin Rotanz



Data Tracking

Data collection is imperative to monitoring student progress and making educated decisions around students’ needs. Data tracking and reporting is made easy with TeachTown since data is captured with each click of the mouse during any teacher-led or student-led technology-based lesson. This information gives facilitators the most complete picture of student progress against their state’s learning standards.

enCORE includes multiple assessment opportunities. Unit assessments allow teachers to measure student growth from pretest to posttest on the skills taught in a given unit. TeachTown Benchmark Assessments measure student progress on individual skills over time and allow teachers to identify growth and areas of need, support progress monitoring, and enhance targeted instruction.

“We are able to track student goals within the enCORE curriculum and see growth and progress. We are able to implement the use of the benchmark and formative assessments to help guide students’ learning.”

- Kathleen Powers, Special Education Teacher,
Patchogue-Medford School District

LEARN MORE

As special educators, we all have the same goal in mind: providing our students with comprehensive learning opportunities that pave the way for educational and personal success.

Our award-winning adapted core curriculum and supporting interventions deliver a whole child approach. We help you measurably improve the academic, behavioral, and adaptive skills of your students—from Pre-K through the transition years.

Our entire curriculum has been founded upon what works for students with moderate to severe disabilities.

SCAN THE QR CODE to learn more about how TeachTown can work in your district.





When it came time to evaluate a new curriculum for their students with moderate to severe disabilities, Patchogue-Medford School District knew this was not a decision that they were going to make lightly.



Our K-12+ Whole Child Approach offers students with moderate to severe disabilities equitable and inclusive access to the general education curriculum and the individualized interventions that support their success.

TeachTown.com