



# KeyTrain®



## Case Study: High Schools

### Quotes & Notes

“By saving [a] single student, our school received enough funding to completely pay for the KeyTrain software. And the great part is that we can use KeyTrain for as many students as we wish.”

“We had one student who would simply sit at the computer, log in to KeyTrain, and then do other things. Luckily KeyTrain can tell whether students are working or not – and it only records their time if they are. We were able to identify that this student was not working and address the issue.”

*-Wendy Crank, School Counselor*

“The students like to use KeyTrain and after using it, they invariably pass the WorkKeys assessments requirements for the program.”

*-Cathy Haller, Prevention Services Coordinator*

## Credit Recovery Programs

### Giving Hard-Working Students a Second Chance in Colorado

#### Challenges:

- Help hard-working students gain credits and demonstrate that they have the skills to graduate
- Help students raise their career readiness skills
- Allow students to demonstrate that they have 21<sup>st</sup> Century work readiness skills

#### Actions:

- Create credit recovery programs that include WorkKeys® and KeyTrain®, among other components
- Create alternate paths to regular diplomas or performance diplomas

#### Results:

- Students with the credits to graduate
- Students who demonstrate career readiness skills and are certified in career readiness
- 100% return on investment for KeyTrain

If you ask Wendy Crank, School Counselor at Norwood Public Schools, why she likes their credit recovery program, she'll tell you that it provides a second chance for students who are short of credits for various reasons. She'll also let you know that if they don't work hard in the program, they won't get a third chance.

“Our program provides a safety net for hard-working students. If students don't put the effort into our program, we know it's their personal choice and not the school system letting them slip through the cracks” Crank says.

The program to which she refers is the Key Performance Academy at Norwood Public Schools R2-JT in Norwood, CO. Among other important components, the program uses KeyTrain and WorkKeys to help students earn a “performance diploma” – one that shows the students can perform at the levels of a high school graduate.

A similar, and similarly titled, program (the Key Performance program) is also at work in Colorado in Mecosta Valley School District 51. Cathy Haller, the Prevention Services Coordinator for the district explains that while they do use KeyTrain and WorkKeys as a way for high school students to get elective credits, their Key Performance program is a more robust course that provides an alternate pathway for a regular diploma – not a pathway for an alternate diploma.

### The programs:

The programs at Mecosta Valley and Norwood each include a rigorous approach that requires portfolio work as well as fairly high scores on nine WorkKeys assessments. In each case, students must demonstrate that they are ready to graduate by presenting portfolios and showing skills, such as job interviewing, to the school board, community members, or a combination thereof.

### Multiple Benefits of KeyTrain

In both programs, KeyTrain is used to help students prepare for the fairly stringent required scores in WorkKeys. Requirements are: Reading for Information: 5, Applied Mathematics: 5, Locating Information: 4, Applied Technology: 4, Teamwork: 3, Observation: 4, Listening: 3, Writing: 3, and Business Writing: 3.

According to Ms. Crank, KeyTrain is a very effective tool in helping the students achieve these levels. In addition, it is useful in monitoring whether or not students are working. “We had one student who would simply sit at the computer, log in to KeyTrain, and then do other things. Luckily KeyTrain can tell whether students are working or not – and it only records their time if they are. We were able to identify that this student was not working and address the issue.”

Though not a formal study, she also noted anecdotally that all students who used KeyTrain in their program raised their scores on the ACT college entrance exam by at least two points. In one case, a student raised his ACT Science score by five points.

Ms. Haller notes that KeyTrain helps her students as well. “The students like to use KeyTrain and after using it, they invariably pass the WorkKeys assessments requirements for the program.”

### Success

The Mecosta Valley School District Key Performance program helped 22 students gain high school diplomas in 2009. “Our success is definitely part of the school’s scorecard and helps with AYP” says Haller.

Ms. Crank at Norwood sites several success stories that demonstrate what the program can do...one of which resulted in funding that completely paid for the KeyTrain software!

One student, who had transferred from a much larger school in Colorado, came to Norwood with F’s and worked hard enough to raise his grades to B’s and C’s. Even with the student’s diligence, it became obvious that he would not have enough credits to graduate – and given his demonstrated dedication, he became a good candidate for the Key Performance Academy. He was able to demonstrate to the school board that he was learning 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills. By using KeyTrain he passed all the WorkKeys requirements. He was able to raise his overall ACT score by two points and he created an impressive portfolio (another program requirement) in “The Arts” by learning the guitar, creating a lesson plan, and beginning to teach the instrument to others.

### Return on Investment

Ms. Crank explains, “We receive state funding based on enrollment – approximately \$10,000 per student. By saving this single student, our school received enough funding to completely pay for the KeyTrain software. And the great part is that we can use KeyTrain for as many students as we wish.”