



Waterford  
Early  
Learning™

SuccessMaker®  
ENTERPRISE

*“Waterford Early Learning and SuccessMaker Enterprise are a great way to differentiate instruction. Students are actively engaged in reading and math skills that are being presented on their individual levels. The kids are excited because they are getting this practice in the format of their choice—computer based instruction.”*

— Penny Lang  
Title I teacher

*“Through the FM system hook-up, the children are able to use the hearing they have to connect to the sounds and words of the language used in the Waterford Early Learning program and work through it independently.”*

— Jaci Stewart  
deaf education, 1st grade teacher

# LAWRENCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Mesquite Regional Day School for the Deaf

Mesquite, Texas

### PROFILE

**School District:** Mesquite Independent School District

**District Enrollment:** 36,000 students

**School Enrollment:** 350 students

**Grades:** PreK-6

**Free/Reduced Price Lunch:** 65 percent

**Deaf Education Students:** 15 percent

**Ethnicity:**

- 55% Hispanic
- 25% Caucasian
- 14% African American
- 6% Asian

### CHALLENGE

Voted an “exemplary” school five times since 2001, Lawrence Elementary School is dedicated to providing a quality education to all their students. A unique feature of the school is their Mesquite Regional Day School for the Deaf, which receives students throughout Mesquite Independent School District (MISD) as well as eight other surrounding school districts. As part of their curricula, Lawrence Elementary purchased Waterford Early Learning™ and SuccessMaker® Enterprise to help struggling students improve their math and reading scores as well as to offer the benefits of the computer courseware to all of their hearing impaired students. The auditory nature of the programs though created a barrier for the deaf education students to receive the full effect and benefits of the programs.

### SOLUTION

Using Title I funds MISD purchased Waterford Early Learning and SuccessMaker Enterprise in 2008. Several of their main objectives for the products were to use them as part of their response to intervention program, to track student progress and measure results. However, Lawrence Elementary also wanted to use these products to help their deaf education students. All of their hearing impaired students, from kindergarten through 6th grade, were scheduled to be on the computers daily—Waterford Early Learning for kindergarten through 2nd grade students and SuccessMaker Enterprise for the 3rd through 6th grade students.

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## SOLUTION (Continued)

A potential barrier existed for the hearing impaired students to fully access these computer programs. The hearing impaired students utilize FM technology in their classrooms. (An FM system works by transmitting the teacher's voice through a microphone, then sending it via radio waves to FM receivers, which are attached to the students' hearing aids or cochlear implant processors.) Dr. Alt, the audiologist for the deaf education program, combined the two technologies by connecting FM transmitters to the computers in order for the hearing impaired students to gain access to the auditory portion of the Waterford Early Learning and SuccessMaker Enterprise computer programs as they worked. The audio portion of every lesson was now transmitted directly to each student's personal amplification. Students could work side-by-side, each listening to his/her own lesson without interference from their friend's lesson. This enabled the students to work independently.

## RESULTS

"The students' reaction to this has been overwhelmingly positive. They are excited and engaged when working with the program," relates Paige DeWitt, principal of Lawrence Elementary School.

Soon after the implementation, Pearson Digital Account Executive Shari Morris visited Lawrence Elementary and the day school classrooms. What follows is her account of the visit.

"Our anticipation turned to big tears as these children worked on Waterford Early Reading with their faces glowing! One kindergarten boy in particular won our hearts! He was sitting such that we couldn't see his computer screen, but we could see his precious face. I really can't describe in words the excitement and enthusiasm that overflowed from this little boy during his session. He excitedly interrupted his teacher twice to show her the gorilla and other characters with a huge smile on his face! To think that our Waterford program could bring such joy to his day just left me speechless.

"We then visited the upper grade classroom that had about eight hearing impaired 3rd through 6th grade students. In this classroom, they have successfully implemented SuccessMaker Enterprise, with each child able to hear it. The teacher allowed each of her students to share what they liked most about the program. We heard everything from 'It helps me learn math better' to 'It's like a game.' And the teacher loved that she could monitor their individual progress so effectively.

"AMAZING is the only word I can use to describe our visit to Lawrence Elementary!"

*"Seeing the joy on the students' faces as they hear the sounds and words related to the pictures is incredibly rewarding."*

— **Kelly Wolf**  
deaf education, kindergarten teacher

*"When asked why he liked to work on the computer, Riley Hefner signed and said, 'It makes me happy.'"*

— **Riley Hefner**  
deaf education, 1st grade student