



ISSUE BRIEF:

Accountability and Academic Success

Connections Academy (CA) improves student achievement by providing students with access to a fully integrated, challenging and proven curriculum along with additional materials based on state and local standards. The key to the CA approach is that each student's Personalized Learning Plan adapts the program to the specific needs of each learner. CA has found that the strong reading and math lessons that emphasize basic skills and critical thinking increase student confidence and motivation along with improvements in student performance.

CA is committed to being held accountable for student achievement and will document each student's achievement as follows:

- Each student masters a set of learning objectives in the core subject areas outlined for his or her grade level and correlated with state and local standards. Mastery will be measured by regular assessments plus an evaluation of work products in each student's portfolio. All students will be expected to achieve the "proficiency" level for all objectives.
- Each student achieves a year of academic growth for each year in school. Growth will be measured with an online/offline standardized test, Longitudinal Evaluation of Academic Progress (LEAP), which CA administers at the beginning and end of the year. The test has a high degree of correlation to state standards.
- CA students participate in all state- and district-required testing.
- In addition, CA may select a Norm-Referenced Test to use with its students on an annual basis to coordinate with the evolving overall district assessment framework. For students who enroll in CA without available test scores from a previous year, CA may use this NRT as a baseline pre-test.

Connections Academy is fully accountable for students' academic progress—and guarantees student success.

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