

# INTERNAL MONITORING REPORT

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## ***Progress Toward End 1.1.d***

Students will demonstrate an understanding of earth, life, and physical science through subject matter study as well as the application of the scientific method through investigation and exploration.

## **Reasonable Interpretation and Justification**

Students in Horizon Charter Schools have made significant progress toward accomplishment of this goal. Currently 51.69% (up from 49% last year) of the students tested by the California Content Standards Tests in Science (grades 5, 8 and 10) and 38.43% (up from 31% last year) in the end-of-course science (STAR 2010) demonstrate mastery of the standards.

## **Data Directly Addressing the Interpretation**

Students in both Horizon Charter School (HCS) and Partnerships for Student-Centered Learning (PaSCL) have demonstrated dramatic gains in the science California Standards Tests over the past 4-5 years.

Multi Year Comparison Reports show highly encouraging progress of our students in mastery of Science content standards. Positive academic growth is attributed to

- (1) following of California Content Standards
- (2) availability of recommended, standards-based curriculum
- (3) increased number of supplementary and core academic classes
- (4) Stronger support for struggling students in basic math skills that inform Science standard mastery

The end-of-course assessments are administered to HCS and PaSCL secondary students who are enrolled in the following courses:

- (1) Earth Science
- (2) Biology
- (3) Chemistry
- (4) Physics

A school-wide effort has been made to encourage students to take these courses in a prescribed manner so that prerequisite courses will have been passed and concurrent courses are appropriate to support the Science content mastery. In addition, recommended curriculum and 5-unit, core academic classes with labs have seen steady enrollment. To best support effective home/independent study students, Virtual Learning Instructors, web-based classes, and site-based labs are available to provide needed support.

## ***Summary of Progress***

Overall, HCS and PaSCL students have demonstrated excellent progress in Science.