



TeachTown: Basics

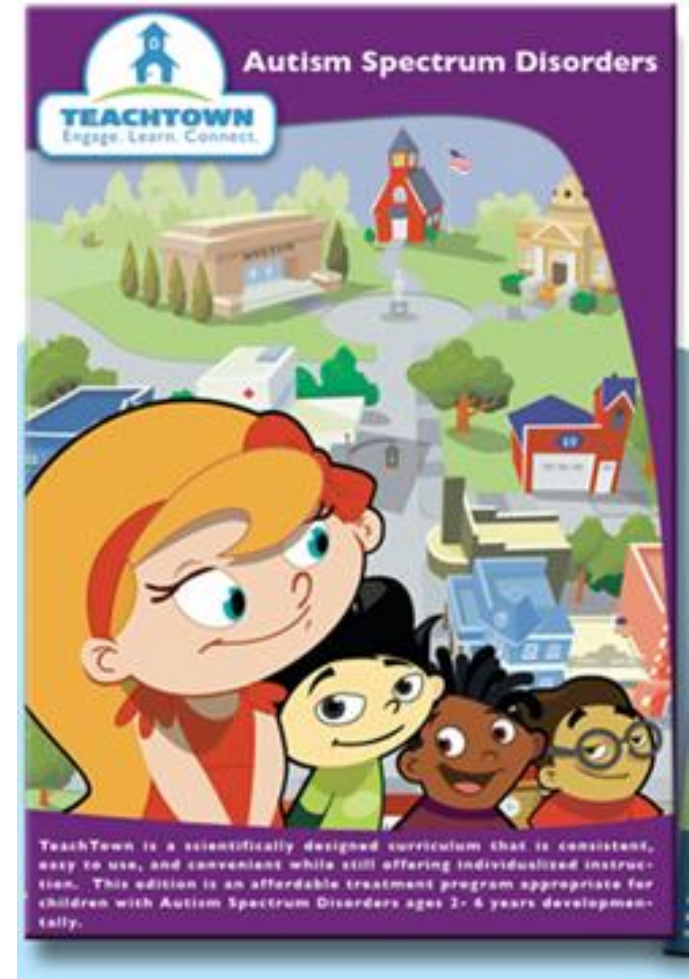
Christina Whalen, PhD, BCBA

Co-Founder, President, and Chief Science Officer
TeachTown

Debbie Moss

Specialist Technical Expert in Autism, Los Angeles
Unified School District

National Center for Technology Innovation Conference
Washington D.C.
November, 2009





Why Use Computers?

- 🏫 Research supports computer assisted instruction for ASD
- 🏫 Ability to allow more 'time on task'
- 🏫 Reduces amount of materials needed
- 🏫 Artificial Intelligence automatically individualizes each child's curriculum, yet allows for customization
- 🏫 Gives standardization to special education and academic curriculum across district





Benefits of Computer-Assisted Instruction

- 🏫 Automated data collection and tracking
- 🏫 Reduce training time for staff and cost of treatment
- 🏫 Motivating for children
- 🏫 Accelerate acquisition
- 🏫 Consistent delivery
- 🏫 Ability to allow more 'time on task'
- 🏫 Gives standardization to special education and academic curriculum across district
- 🏫 Can transition into general education
- 🏫 Access to general education curriculum





Research Findings: What is so important about motivation?

- Research shows (e.g. Koegel & Schreibman) that increased motivation =
 - Increased attention to task
 - Increased skill acquisition
 - Increased generalization
 - Increased language gains
 - Increased socialization
 - Decreased problem behaviors



Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)



2008-2009 School Year

District Population: 688,138

Special Education Students: 82,326

English Language Learners (ELL)
Students: 39,455

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
students: 8,516

- Primary eligibility
- Additional 55 with ASD as secondary eligibility





Efficacy Study in Public School Setting

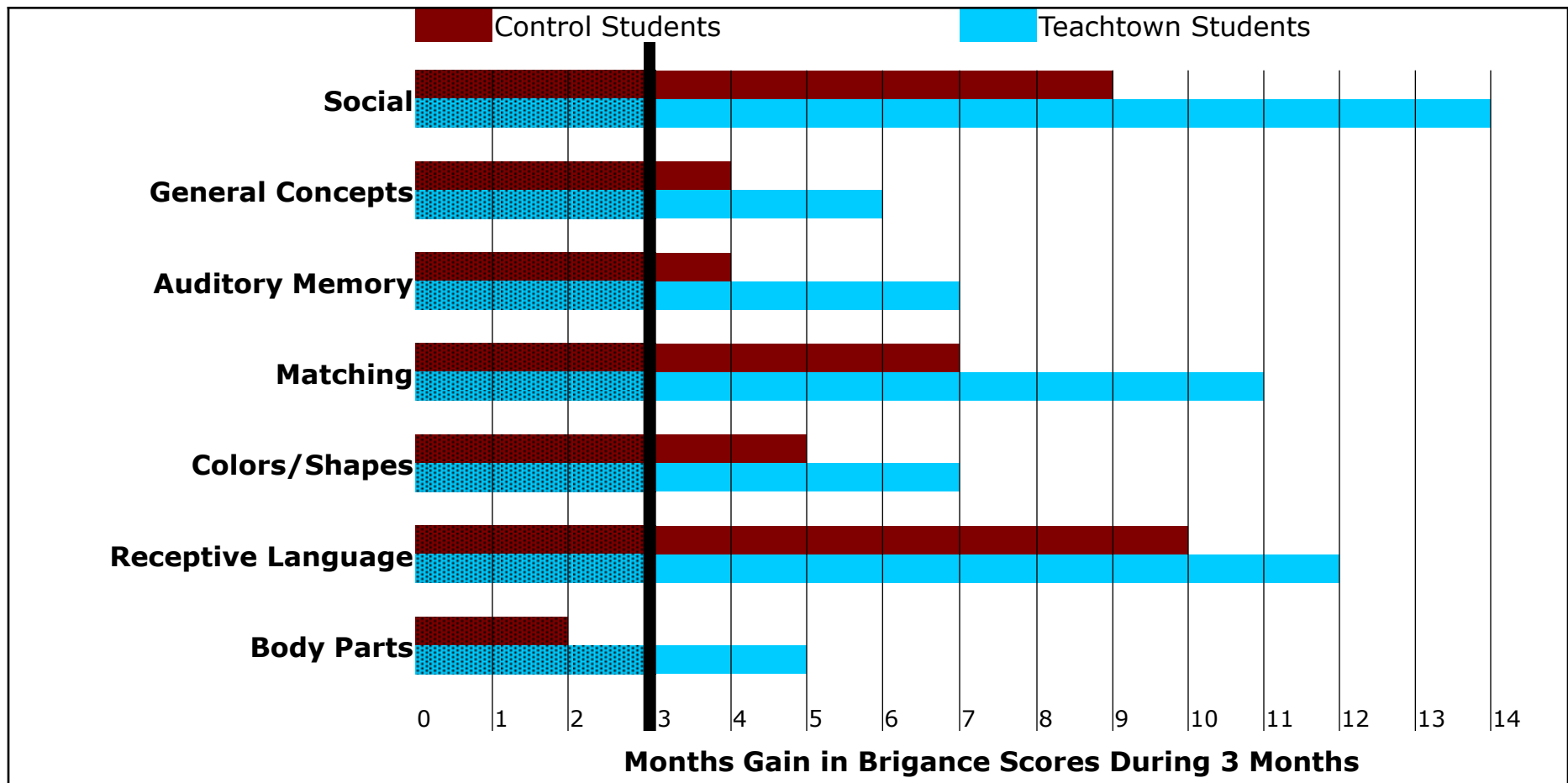
- 47 students with autism
- Students in self-contained special education classes at LAUSD
- Groups were similar at baseline
- Baseline average chronological age in months on Brigance®
Assessment subtests by group:

| | Body parts | Rec Lang | Colors/ Shapes | Matching | Aud Memory | Gen Concepts | Social Skills |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| TT students | 30 | 30 | 54 | 51 | 29 | 29 | 24 |
| Control students | 31 | 30 | 58 | 54 | 29 | 29 | 31 |



Results after 3 months (20m/day computer; 20m/day off-computer activity)

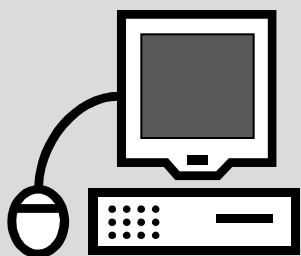
- Both students in the TeachTown group and the control group made growth (as measured by the Brigance Assessment during the 3 months of the study).
- The students who used TeachTown gained between 2 and 5 months **more growth on average**
- in each area of the Brigance than the students in the control group:





About *TeachTown:Basics*

On-computer lessons



- Comprehensive self-adjusting curriculum
- Engaging for children
- Covers 4 learning domains
- Over 500 lessons (each with 4 or more concepts)

Off-computer activities



- Relationship-building
- Naturalistic play activities
- Enhances generalization
- Covers 7 learning domains
- Over 100 activities

Data tracking



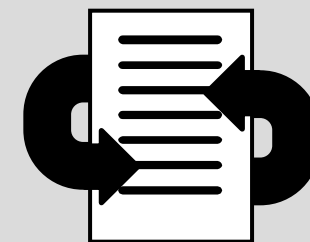
- Automatically tracks progress
- Share with other team members to set program goals

Note taking



- Leave session notes
- Connect everyone on the child's team

Synchronization and update



- Portable therapy, synchronizes across multiple locations
- Secure server
- Updates curriculum automatically



Sample Weekly Student Report



TeachTown: Basics Lesson Progress Report

CONFIDENTIAL

Student Name: **Felicity First**
Date of Birth: **06-08-1999**

Facilitator: **Tammy Teacher**
Prepared on: **5-03-09**

Facilitators of **Felicity First**:
Tammy Teacher
Richard Roe
Bill Smith

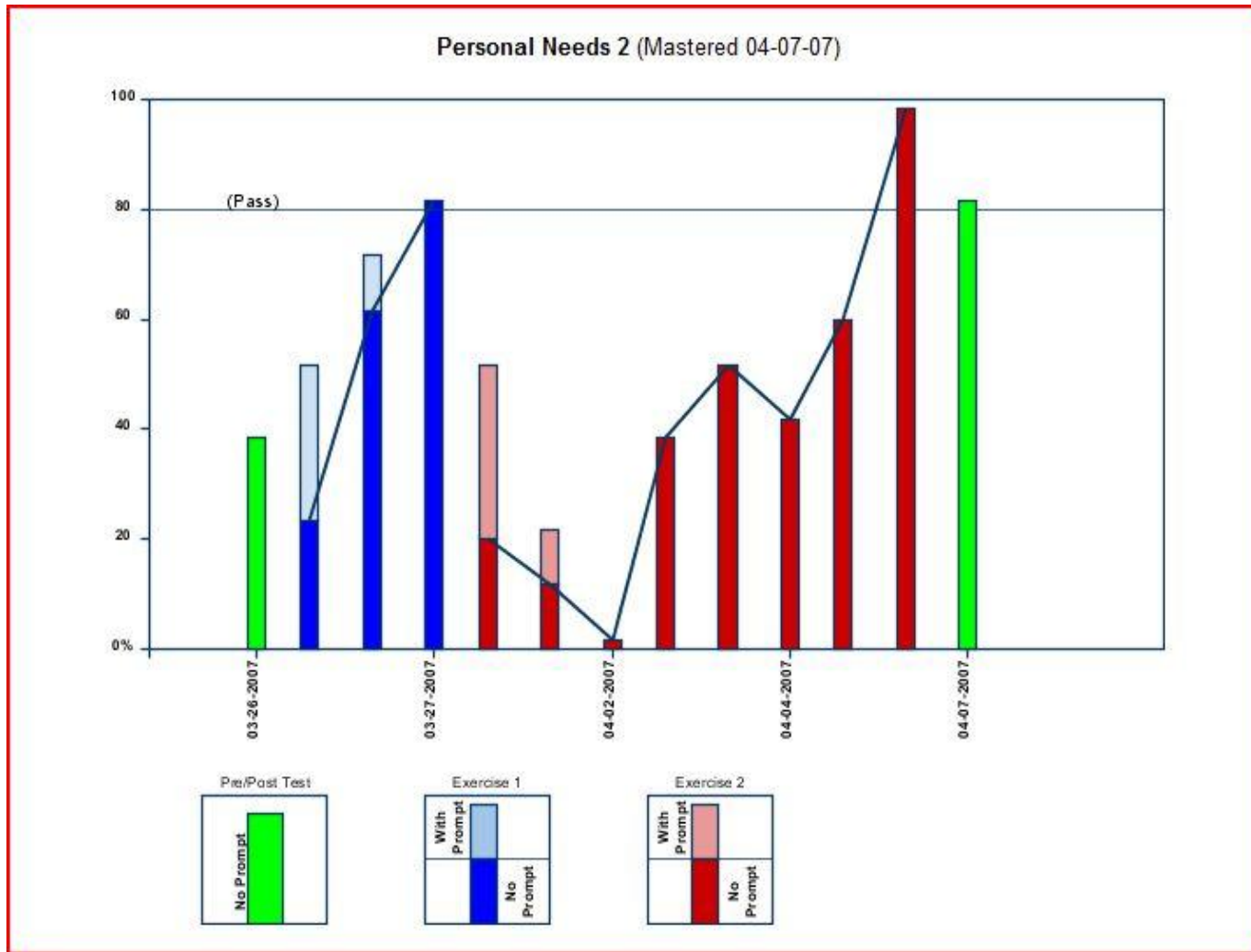
Lesson: **Personal Needs 2**

| Exercise Name | Times Completed | Total Time (min) | Avg Score | Avg Score (Prompted) |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Pre-Test | 1 | 27 | 62 | n/a |
| Tired & Runny Nose | 3 | 68 | 74 | 87 |
| Cold & Miss Someone | 7 | 85 | 63 | 82 |
| Post-Test(s) | 1 | 23 | 83 | n/a |

Domain: **Independence - Life Skills**
Sub Domain: **Awareness and Regulation**

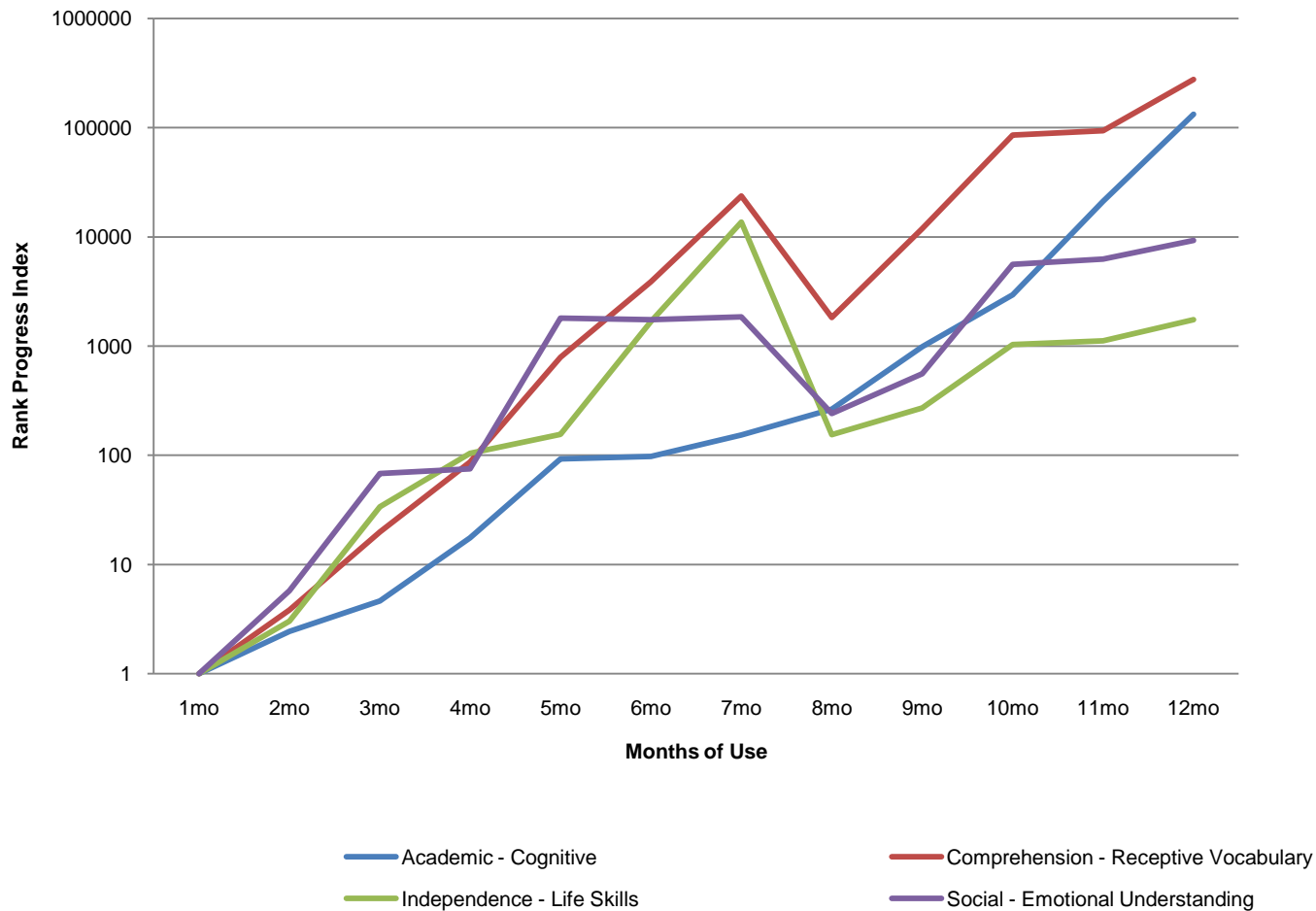


Student Report (cont'd)



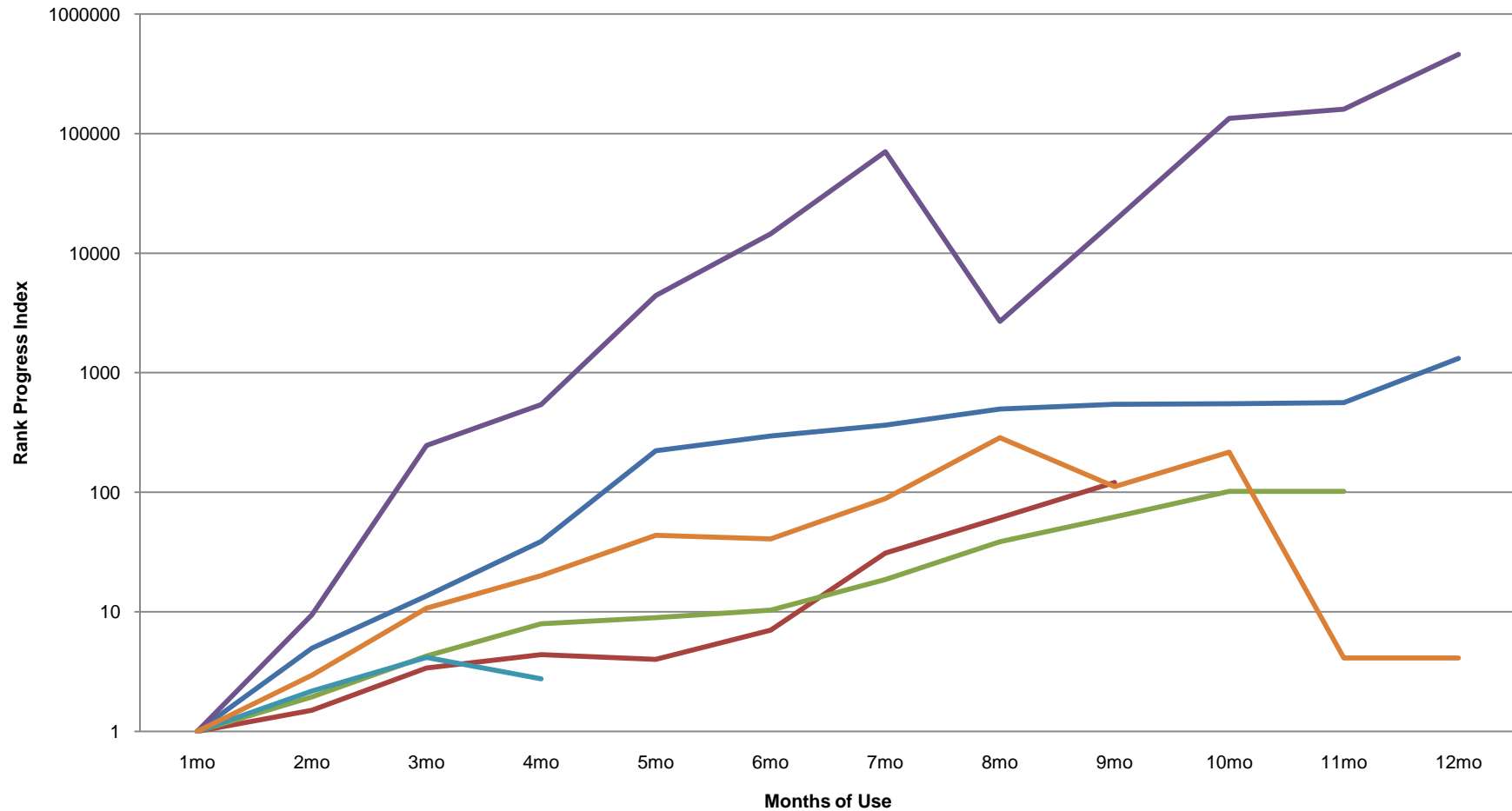


Group Progress Report for School District (n=79 students)





School-to-School Comparison over 1 year within a District (n=79 students)





TEACHTOWN
Engage. Learn. Connect.

