

Arizona Teachers Use Data to Tailor Education

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In the past five years, at least 40 Arizona school districts have purchased data-analysis technology, and others are developing their own systems.

The goal is to move toward classrooms where computers will grade and analyze every test and instantly point to where students need to improve. Parents and kids will track progress online and print out homework in specific areas they need to work on.

The move to data is being propelled in large part by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The sweeping federal law requires schools to prove that children make academic progress every year. So schools are under pressure to show gains on annual standardized tests. To achieve the gains, they need to figure out who needs extra help, and get them the help, long before spring test time rolls around.

The most widely used data system in Arizona is Web-based Galileo, owned by Tucson-based Assessment Technology Inc. It is being used in the Scottsdale, Tucson, Marana, Vail and Alhambra school districts, among others.

Last year, the Arizona Department of Education, partnering with Arizona State University, also launched a Web site that lets students take practice tests and teachers create exams. It doesn't grade teachers' exams yet, but the goal is to offer that within a year.

The complete article is available at: ***The Arizona Republic*** (may require login)

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