



# Orange County Public Schools looks to Penda Learning to Engage Students

## THE CHALLENGES

When Yvonne Fonnnett, Coordinator of Secondary Science for Orange County Public Schools (OCPS), was introduced to Penda’s online science program for the Facebook generation, she was immediately intrigued.

*“The difficult thing is to find a learning program that appeals to these less-motivated students, the Level 1 & 2 Students that make up the RTI population, yet at the same time is proven to raise test scores in state assessments,”* says Ms. Fonnnett.

She had hoped she could find something that students would find stimulating enough to keep their interest but with the added bonus of having a clear connection to preparing for the state’s assessments. The program from Penda Learning filled the bill perfectly.

## THE SOLUTION – PENDA LEARNING

Penda Learning engages the Facebook Generation. This generation of students regularly uses the Internet, social media and computer games but many struggle to become engaged with conventional lesson plans and paper based-resources. Using avatars and competition, Penda engages students through a medium they understand. Overall, students feel confident, successful and motivated.

Aligned to Florida NGSSS, FCATS and EOC tests, Penda is proven to work. Independent research shows that Penda has a positive impact on student performance and test scores. In Florida, studies revealed that just 10 Penda lessons can increase FCAT scores by almost 37 points.

When Ms. Fannett saw Penda’s program for the first time. she instantly knew it would work for her district. “For the state of Florida, Penda is a very good fit. Once students log on, they find everything they need to keep practicing and practicing until they understand a concept and improve their scores.”

## THE RESULTS

The Penda program has been well-received by middle and high school students and teachers alike in OCPS. Students enjoy the content of the program, and teachers appreciate that it’s as effective as it is engaging.

*“We have the confidence of knowing that the math and science content is correlated with our standards and the students can pick concepts that have been highlighted as especially relevant to their FCATS.”* adds Ms. Fonnnett.

Usage is high indicating that there is no shortage of interest from the students. In the first month, many schools had logged hundreds of task hours (a monitoring metric automatically created by the program) and the trend is continuing to climb.

*“I have been surprised and excited to see the data showing how the majority of student log-in time is during after-school hours,”* says Ms. Fonnnet.

**Increase in FCAT scores with every 10 Penda exercises completed**

