



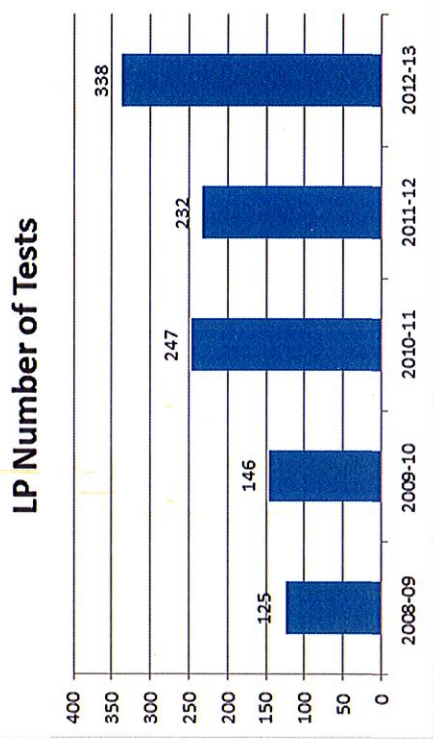
LEARNING POWER

Five Year Snapshot: 2008-2013

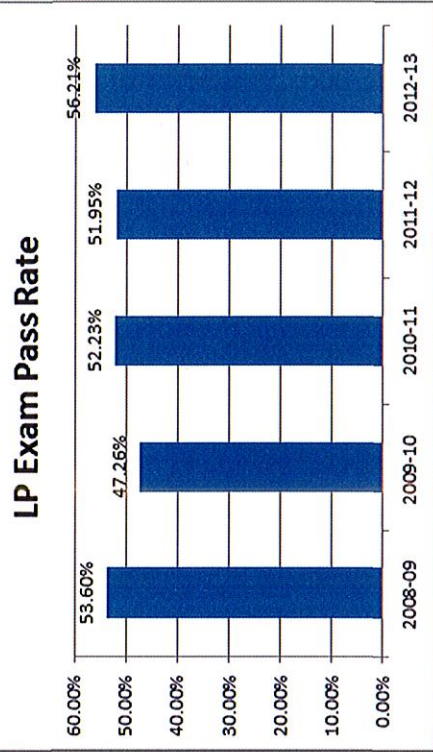
Learning Power has reached a benchmark—five years of implementation. Clearly, the program is responding-to a need in South Dakota, in particular, the need for learners in small rural high schools to have access to high quality AP course opportunities in math, science, and English. As a statewide program initiated through a grant from the National Math and Science Initiative, the program makes seven AP courses in STEM subject areas (AP Biology, AP Calculus, AP Chemistry, AP English Language and Composition, AP English Literature and Composition, AP Physics, and AP Statistics) available across the state via an online delivery system. All of the courses are taught by South Dakota teachers. Forty-five high schools participated in the first year and that number grew to 73 last year. There is no cost to the student and the only cost for the local district is course materials. The program is a partnership of the SD Department of Education, the NSU E-learning Center, and TIE.

Five Year Summary of Results

Graphical Representation of Exams Taken over Five Years



Graphical Representation of Pass Rate over Five Years



- A 46% increase from 2012 to 2013

Notable Statistics about Learning Power

- A statistical comparison of Learning Power students and face-to-face AP students in South Dakota based on College Board exam results for 2010-2011 indicates that Learning Power students perform at least as well as face-to-face students. (Only Learning Power students are REQUIRED to take the College Board exams.)
- Virtually 100% of Learning Power students go on to college. About 70% enroll at South Dakota institutions, about 15% enroll at institutions in contiguous states, and the remaining 15% enroll at institutions further away from South Dakota.

BIG Savings and Head Start on College Credits via Learning Power Courses

Undergraduate tuition for a three-credit course at South Dakota's public universities is nearly \$800.

There is NO cost of a Learning Power course for students and the only expense for the district is course materials. Students with a qualifying score on the College Board Exam earn three credits!

For example, a Learning Power student completing two courses with qualifying scores may enter college with six credits toward graduation and a tuition savings of \$1,600! Clearly, it could be considered a scholarship! What a financial boost for students and their parents!



South Dakota Online Advanced Placement Program

Providing advanced placement opportunities in math, science and English to high school students across South Dakota

LEARNING POWER

Students can choose from the following:

- AP Calculus AB
- AP English Literature & Composition
- AP English Language & Composition
- AP Biology
- AP Physics B
- AP Statistics
- AP Chemistry

“Most of my classes from high school never challenged my talents beyond the scope of the classroom. By taking a more independent class through Learning Power’s online program, I learned a lot about responsibility, which provided me a smooth transition into college.” - former Learning Power student

Registration opens March 2014 on a first-come, first-served basis at the South Dakota Virtual School:

sdvs.k12.sd.us

Public, private, or home-school high school students in South Dakota registering through their local district are eligible to participate. Learning Power courses are provided at no cost to the student or district (other than instructional materials).

Many colleges and universities grant college credit for scores of 3 or higher, which can result in savings of college tuition. Learning Power even reimburses the cost of the exams to the local district. The majority of the increase in passing College Board Exam scores in South Dakota is attributable to Learning Power students.

The Learning Power courses are challenging, so a solid academic background in the identified content area is essential. Student success is supported by the teachers of the online AP courses and local district E-mentors. Student success is a team effort.

Learning Power courses are taught by experienced South Dakota classroom teachers with track records of impressive student proficiency on AP exams. These teachers participated in AP Institutes and online teacher training. They are professionally recognized and/or hold National Board Certification. Some teachers are with NSU’s E-learning Center and the others are from local districts around the state.

Partners include:

A powerful option with demonstrated results spanning six years!

Over 56% of the students completing courses last school year scored 3 or higher on College Board exams.

A statistical comparison affirms that Learning Power students perform at least as well as face-to-face AP students in the state.

100% of Learning Power students enroll in college - 70% at South Dakota universities.

sdvs.k12.sd.us 

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