



## Some SuccessMaker Benefits Reported by Schools

### In Support of SuccessMaker

Schools using SuccessMaker are reporting a wide range of additional benefits for all concerned. They endorse that the software delivers

- \* Powerful stimulating learning for students in numeracy and literacy
- \* Detailed analytical data for classroom intervention
- \* Embedded diagnostic assessment without continuous testing
- \* Tracking, goal setting and forecasting for individuals and groups of students.
- \* Excellent research results have just been released. Researchers have commented that the students make 'quite remarkable' progress. (see Eduvac June 10 for a brief overview)

Schools comment that SuccessMaker benefits everyone involved with the delivery of education in their schools-Senior Management, BOT, teachers, students and parents.

### How does SuccessMaker help teachers and schools?

In the overall picture in a school, SuccessMaker will provide excellent information in the three areas schools need to be able to ascertain, that is:

1. Where are our students at?
2. Where do they need to be?
3. How are they going to get there?

Schools are impressed with the comprehensive, training and the ongoing support they receive. This ensures that they are able make the best possible use of the system on an ongoing basis.

### Formative Assessment & Reporting Made Easy

SuccessMaker provides a powerful tool for ongoing planning, both for the school in its widest sense, and for the teacher in the classroom.

Because it can easily determine the level that students are working at, it is valuable in assessing where transient students are at in their learning, and is able to provide individual help to those who require it. Reporting back to Boards, ERO and parents is made easy because of the system's ability to generate many different reports. These reports summarise the data that has been collected on students and groups of students in an easily understood format.

### Individualised, Measurable, Accountable

Using SuccessMaker, student progress is measured by the same yard stick overall, so that all teachers have a reliable bench mark to base their teaching on, which does not change from department to department- or from classroom to classroom. Schools are finding that this is making an impact by ensuring that all students are being taught at the correct instructional level- particularly in reading and maths.

### Inexperienced teachers shown the worth of assessment

Inexperienced teachers who may not have a complete appreciation of why accurate assessment is crucial to their ability to teach to individual needs, very quickly learn its value as they access SuccessMaker's very specific data which allows them to target the strengths and weaknesses within their classroom.

### **Supports every teacher**

Because excellent classroom teachers have developed SuccessMaker, it models excellent teaching practice, allowing teachers to observe which strategies work the best with their students. Teachers young and old are making use of new teaching strategies learned from the system. SuccessMaker also motivates the 'hard to motivate' students and this carries back into the classroom. It also allows teachers to identify students who either have better understandings than previously thought, or those who have managed to conceal the extent to which they are struggling.

### **Maximising Available Resources**

A teacher aide can effectively run SuccessMaker on a day to day basis. The programmes are in place for an aide to support every teacher in the school instead of just a few. This makes for a very effective use of a teacher aide. Many schools are finding that less teacher aides are needed for support which lessens annually recurring costs to the school.

Because of the specific information showing which objectives students have or have not mastered, the system can assist every teacher in the school- whether they are actively involved in the running of it or not-as the information can be easily transferred to the classroom teacher via the teacher or aide in charge.

### **Success at All Ages and Stages**

Secondary Schools are finding that SuccessMaker is giving them powerful support in assessing mastery for unit standards, and in providing support for those students who need to improve their understandings and overall performance.

### **Homework Centres and the Community**

SuccessMaker is the ideal tool for use in homework centres and provides the school with the ability to facilitate second chance education in the community.

Nothing is more powerful to students than seeing their older siblings or parents becoming involved with ongoing education.

### **Reading Recovery and Retention**

Schools report that student's learning is transferred to the classroom and they retain the gains that they have made whilst using SuccessMaker.

Many schools use this in conjunction with (and some instead of) Reading Recovery, as it offers a solution to a greater number of students in a more cost effective manner.

Those students who do not make the required progress in the time allowed on Reading Recovery make significant progress when put onto SuccessMaker.

Many students, who are not eligible for Reading Recovery although they do need the intervention, make excellent progress on SuccessMaker.

### **Other Reported Benefits in the Classroom**

#### **Behavioural Modification**

Students show a significant gain in self-esteem and increased confidence because of the progress they can see themselves making

Because students feel better about themselves, they will often-moderate inappropriate behaviour, making significant shifts in their attitude to school in general.

SuccessMaker teaches students to become independent learners. When working on the system, students develop their listening skills and their ability to follow directions.

Students enjoy the privacy and the non-competitive nature of the system. They feel they have the privacy to make mistakes, and are competing only against themselves. They also enjoy the instant positive feedback and the on line tutors providing immediate help when needed. Because of the nature of SuccessMaker it can be used in-group situations to facilitate collaborative learning.

### **Flexibility**

SuccessMaker can be used thematically to support current topics being pursued in the classroom.

Teachers have the ability to decide what skills they wish students to work on within the reading or maths material provided.

Teachers may choose to allow the system to select the appropriate material for the student, but can also choose to select their own specific areas of instruction. They can also select material thematically. This makes the system particularly flexible for teachers and students.

Through using SuccessMaker schools are finding that some of their extension students are a long way further ahead than it was previously thought, and that the system will provide material at the appropriate level to continue to extend them.

Teachers are also identifying students who were thought to have sound understandings, but who, when working entirely without input from others, were found to have many gaps and a much lower understanding of the required skills than previously thought. Appropriate material is also delivered.

### **Cost Effectiveness**

Schools often comment on the fact that SuccessMaker is a one-time purchase, which can free up some historically recurring costs. eg when employing more teacher aides (see previous page).

**For every station purchased SuccessMaker will provide a school with at least 1000 hours of individualised instruction per year,( 9:00-3:00 during school terms) and many more if used before and after school hours eg homework centres.**

SuccessMaker contains thousands of hours of multimedia courseware in literacy and numeracy. Obtained as a one-time purchase, SuccessMaker is effective for many years to come. Extensive training and support are provided to schools from SuccessMaker NZ.

These are only some of the positive benefits reported to us from schools.

It is a good idea to visit a school successfully harnessing the power of SuccessMaker. You are also most welcome to come to our office in Takapuna so that staff can have 'hands on' experience of the system. We are also available to visit your schools to present to either staff or board members if you so wish.

You are welcome to call us so we can answer your queries, and you can also visit our website [www.successmakernz.co.nz](http://www.successmakernz.co.nz)

### **Footnote**

**You are welcome to use any information we give to you when you are applying for funding- but be careful that you write it in your own words and apply it to your own situation as this is understandably what the ministry and other funding bodies require.**