

# Learning Plus Associates Case Study

## Using Standards Plus to Teach State Blueprints

### Porterville Unified School District–Porterville High School

*Collaborative leadership impacts student achievement*

#### Challenge

Porterville High School is located at the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains between the cities of Bakersfield and Fresno. Enrollment is more than 1,900 students. Over a three year period, an average of 50% of incoming ninth grade students have enrolled from non-Porterville USD schools. 57% of the students are designated as socio-economically disadvantaged and 35% are designated English Learners by the California Department of Education. These factors, coupled with attendance, present serious challenges to students' academic success.

#### Solution

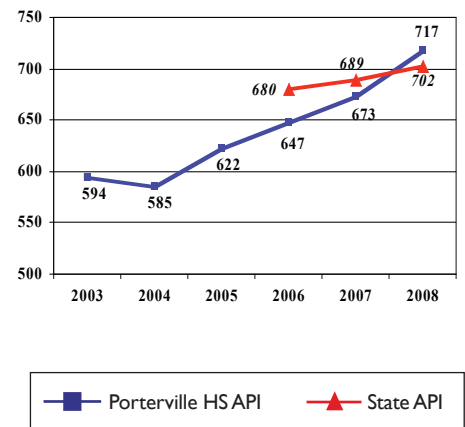
Principal Steve Graybehl is a dynamic instructional leader who has created a culture of collaboration at Porterville High School. The Leadership Team, staff, parents and advisory councils, in conjunction with the District Office, work together to foster student achievement. The commitment of all stakeholders to consistent, focused instruction is the primary reason there has been increased academic success in spite of their challenges.

Curriculum was aligned by teachers in the four core areas and common formative assessments provide achievement data on an ongoing basis. Appropriate placement of students in support classes allows them to receive intensive intervention, re-teach, or enrichment strategies, as well as CAHSEE support. Another decision made by the Leadership Team has been the school-wide implementation of Standards Plus lessons. David Herrera, Math Department Chair, "saw the alignment [of Standards Plus] with the blueprints; and knew it was good stuff."

#### Results

The result of the Leadership Team's intense focus on consistent, targeted instruction follows:

- 44 point growth on the Academic Improvement Index (API)
- All subgroup and AMO growth targets were met (51 point increase-SES population; 54 point increase-EL population)
- Graduation and participation rates met
- Program Improvement status was frozen to Year 2
- Students who scored proficient or above in Algebra I climbed from 14% to 27%



*"The Standards Plus lessons are more closely aligned with state standards and more student friendly than any other textbook or teacher resource I have come across in my ten years of teaching."*

–Diane Rankin, Teacher  
Porterville HS