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Imagine Edgenuity Middle and High School Students Outperform Peers on the New Mexico Measured Progress Exam

Overview

Founded in 2005, Rio Rancho Cyber Academy (RRCA) is an accredited, diploma-granting school that uses Edgenuity online courses as its core curriculum for students in Grades 6–12. RRCA students complete Imagine Edgenuity mathematics, language arts, science, and social studies courses on their personal computers at home and attend school two days a week. They spend a minimum of five hours per week working on each Imagine Edgenuity course. At school, teachers provide instruction in a computer lab, reviewing materials, answering questions, and clarifying complex concepts and skills. They also provide project-based activities and small-group instruction to help students refine their notetaking, writing, critical thinking, and analytical skills.

Rio Rancho Cyber Academy Demographics	
White	52%
Hispanic	40%
Asian	2%
Black	1%
Low Income	24%
Female	52%

Results

In 2020, Imagine Learning compared the performance of RRCA students to that of students in the district and state on the 2019 New Mexico Measured Progress Exam. Data showed that, on average, a greater percentage of RRCA students than district or state students scored at the Proficient level on the Spring 2019 New Mexico Measured Progress English Exam in English language arts (ELA) and math assessments (Figures 1 and 2). Notably, while 80% of Imagine Edgenuity Grade 9 students achieved proficiency on the Spring 2019 New Mexico Measured Progress Exam in math, only 31% of students in the district and 17% in the state scored at the Proficient level.

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Figure 1. Percentage of Students Achieving Proficiency on the ELA New Mexico Measured Progress Exam by Grade Level, Spring 2019
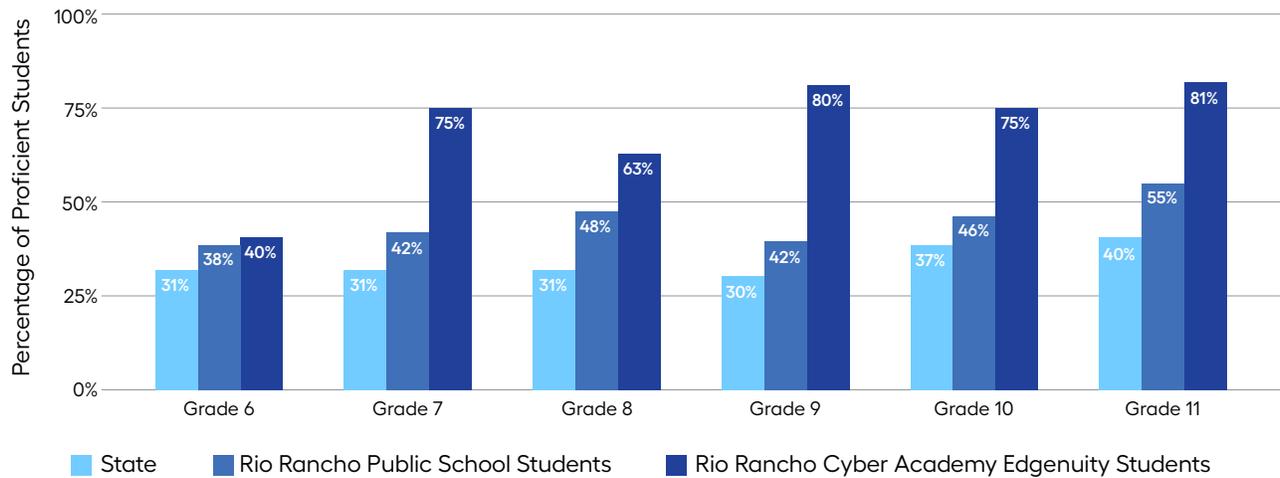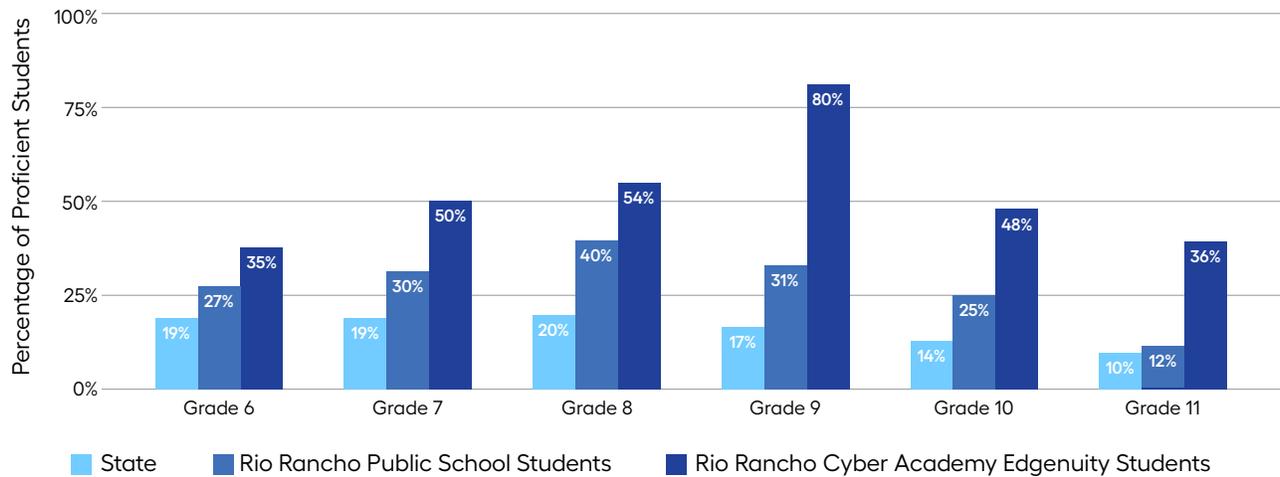

Figure 2. Percentage of Students Achieving Proficiency on the New Mexico Measured Progress Math Exam by Grade Level, Spring 2019

Success Factors

The school attributes its success to:

- **Small student-teacher ratio:** At RRCA, every teacher is responsible for managing, monitoring, mentoring, motivating, and modeling learning for 25 students. Teachers regularly provide academic counseling and tutoring in person and via email. Instructors evaluate student performance prior to each unit assessment by reviewing students' notes and homework for clarity, content, and completion.

- **Collaborative leadership:** RRCA's capitalizes on a team of instructional leaders, staff from the informational technology and curriculum teams, educators and assistants, members of the school board, and parents to ensure a long-term commitment to the program and investment in its success.

- **Data to drive instruction:** RRCA works to ensure that all students achieve 100% completion of their assigned coursework within a school semester, along with a minimum 70% mastery of the content.

- **Deeper learning:** RRCA promotes critical thinking by encouraging 1) reading and answering questions to develop vocabulary and comprehension; 2) notetaking to study, review, and underscore relevant information; 3) writing short-answer responses and essays to determine writing purpose, to think and organize, and to use relevant information; and 4) developing Thinking Maps® to organize thinking, to document information, and to discuss learning in class.