

# SUCCESS STORIES

## LONG STANDING PARTNERSHIP CREATES SUCCESS IN CALIFORNIA CHARTER SCHOOL



**For over 20 years, San Jose Charter Academy a K-8 school located in West Covina, a suburban city in Los Angeles, CA has been dedicated to the fidelity of the SFA model and has achieved tremendous success.**

## THE CHALLENGE

Like all schools during the pandemic, San Jose was faced with the challenge of adapting to virtual learning. Educators and administrators were tasked with figuring out a way to convert their highly-effective SFA programming into a digital model. During at-home learning teachers also had to adapt their approach to student evaluations in order to continue giving feedback, even at home. Although San Jose remained resilient throughout the pandemic, the challenges they faced did not cease after transitioning back to in-person instruction. After returning to the building, teachers were expected to understand how to engage with the new hybrid model and take on more teaching responsibilities. Now they were required to differentiate students based on their literacy proficiency and teach each group according to their specific needs.

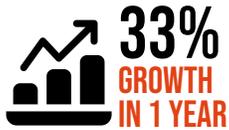
## SAN JOSE SCHOOL'S SFA APPROACH

During a meeting at the beginning of the pandemic, San Jose leaders unanimously agreed that in order to sustain their progress they needed to develop a comprehensive and pragmatic plan. Using SFA as a framework, the team created an adapted curriculum that catered to their students' new needs. Tools like screen sharing, pre-recorded lessons, and online feedback helped San Jose create a virtual program that closely mimicked the original SFA model.

Another principle that contributed to San Jose's success was its teachers' adherence to SFA practices such as: observation, self-reflection, and constant communication. It was this unified approach that ensured all San Jose students, educators, and parents were adequately supported.

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## RESULTS



San Jose's students' continuously improve on standardized assessments and surpass district and state scores in both ELA and math. One of their most impressive jumps from this past year was in the spring having 74% of second graders at or above grade reading level compared to that fall having only 41% of the students.



Due to San Jose's vibrant culture and nurturing environment the retention rate of teachers remains high and few teachers have left. Former students also come back and work for the school. There are currently 5 former students occupying positions like special education aides, SFA facilitators, and teachers.