



October 11, 2023

Mr. Douglas Adams  
Director of Research & Development  
County of Hawai'i  
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1301  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Submitted via email: [chresdev@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:chresdev@hawaiicounty.gov)

RE: RD.8) Education Program (early childhood development; healthcare programs and services)

Dear Mr. Adams,

As founder and president, it is my pleasure to submit this proposal. I will be happy to provide you with evidence of our tutoring programs' successes for your county's review. Thrive expects to see a minimum of 85-90% improvement in post-assessment scores among participating youth.

We recognize the importance of educational support and commit to providing exceptional service to your youth.

As such, the tutoring services that Thrive Academics will provide are in line with all objectives relating to reading and math development for grades K-12 and High School Educational and Career Development for grades 9 through 12 utilizing the successful Voyage program which is a College and Career Readiness Plus Life Skills Course.

Should you have additional questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me at **818-927-2703**, or my direct email: **bedwards@thriveacademics.com**.

Thank you,

Brandon Edwards, Ed.D., President  
Thrive Academics, Inc.  
818-927-2703- office  
[www.thriveacademics.com](http://www.thriveacademics.com)  
[www.voyagecourse.com](http://www.voyagecourse.com)



**The name of the firm or person, contact information including email address, the principal place of business, and location of all of its offices:**

Name of Firm: Thrive Academics, Inc.  
Contact Person: Brandon Edwards, Ed.D., President  
Email: [bedwards@thriveacademics.com](mailto:bedwards@thriveacademics.com)  
Phone: 818-927-2703  
Address Office 1: 28220 Enderly Street, Canyon Country, CA 91351  
Address Office 2: 16436 Monocacy Blvd., Huntersville, NC 28078

**The age of the firm and its average number of employees over the past five years;  
The education, training, and qualifications of the individual:**

Brandon Edwards, Ed.D. brings over 20 years of experience to deliver the program and is supported by a strong staff of five key posts of Program Supervisor, Parent Involvement Contact, Human Resource Manager, Supplemental Instruction Coordinator, and Social Media Director. Over 500 tutors provide the highest level of service to students and keep in close communication with administrators, teachers, parents, and caregivers.

Thrive Academics, Inc. was formed as a corporation in the state of California in 2015 and has been serving school districts across the United States.

Per the United States Office of Personnel Management's Qualifications Standards Handbook Thrive employees fall into the following categories:

- GS-1701 General Education and Training
- GS-1720 Education Program
- GS-1730 Education Research
- GS-1740 Education Services
- GS-1750 Educational Systems



**A list of recent projects and the names of up to five clients who may be contacted, including at least two for whom services were rendered during the preceding year.**

Gorman Learning Center  
Cindy Hamman  
[chamman@gormanlc.org](mailto:chamman@gormanlc.org)

Los Angeles County of Education (LACOE)  
Thrive holds five separate contracts for services with LACOE, this is one of the contacts, more can be provided upon request.  
Christina Navarette  
[navarette\\_christina@lacoedu](mailto:navarette_christina@lacoedu)

San Bernardino Probation  
Laura Castillo  
[laura.castillo@prob.sbcounty.gov](mailto:laura.castillo@prob.sbcounty.gov)

Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS)  
Doris Chisolm  
[doris.chisholm@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:doris.chisholm@cms.k12.nc.us)

**Any promotional or descriptive literature which the individual or firm desires to submit.**

Please see attached promotional materials.

# VOYAGE PROGRAM

HIGH SCHOOL ESSENTIAL



Voyage guides high school students through college and career planning and develops real life skills needed for adulthood in five affordable modules.

## MODULE 1: WHO I AM

Navigates the student through self-examination to identify strengths, skills, learning style, to help him/her set goals for adulthood.

## MODULE 2: CAREER PLANNING

Once the student has identified the elements of #1, Voyage helps him/her identify strong career choices and how to pursue them.

## MODULE 3: COLLEGE PLANNING

For the career-bound student, Voyage offers assistance for choosing colleges, applying to them and dealing with financial aspects of college entrance.

## MODULE 4: FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Voyage will instruct your student in financial concepts to provide a strong financial foundation for life.

## MODULE 5: EVERYDAY LIVING

This module provides necessary training in knowing skills we use daily – auto maintenance, personal health, hygiene, travel, home care, etc.

Once these inexpensive Modules are completed, your high school student will have the tools necessary to feel confident and comfortable in being self-sufficient!

[THRIVEACADEMICS.COM/VOYAGE-COURSE](https://THRIVEACADEMICS.COM/VOYAGE-COURSE)





## Performance Series® Computer-adaptive diagnostic assessment

Pinpoint the proficiency level of your students across a range of subjects with results that correspond to your state’s educational standards. See more accurate student placement, better diagnosis of instructional needs—including where instructional adjustments are necessary—and measure student gains across reporting periods.

### Need common, vertically scaled growth measures?

Performance Series is a reliable, valid, and norm-referenced, computer-adaptive assessment in Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. Created following a rigorous development process by our Assessment Development and Psychometrics team, these assessments deliver scaled scores and statistically valid results that provide vertical growth mapping independent of grade level.

When administered at regular intervals, Performance Series’ vertical scale provides a measure of student growth throughout the school year. Continuing to use Performance Series at appropriate intervals during a student’s academic career provides effective longitudinal tracking across grade levels.

### Supporting students with a wide range of proficiencies?

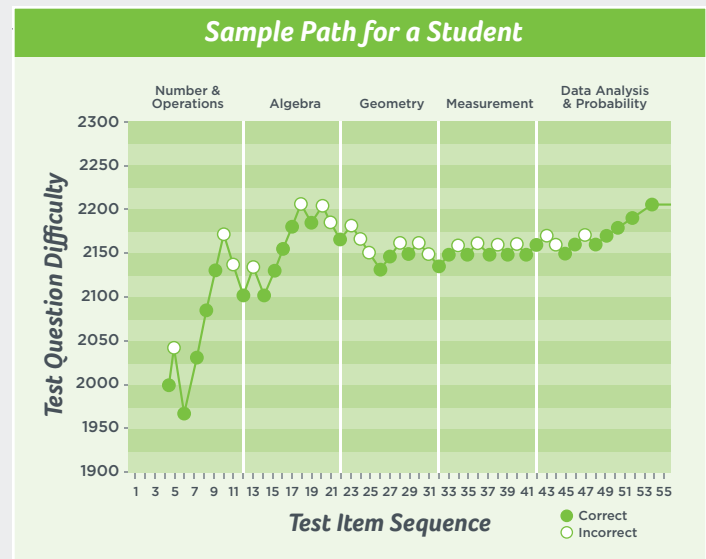
Traditional assessments focus on standards for one grade level at a time, making it challenging to determine overall student placement or to focus on individual student needs.

Performance Series provides students with tests tailored to their proficiencies. The online test adjusts automatically to each student’s ability level, generating more difficult

questions if the student is answering correctly and easier ones if the student is answering incorrectly.

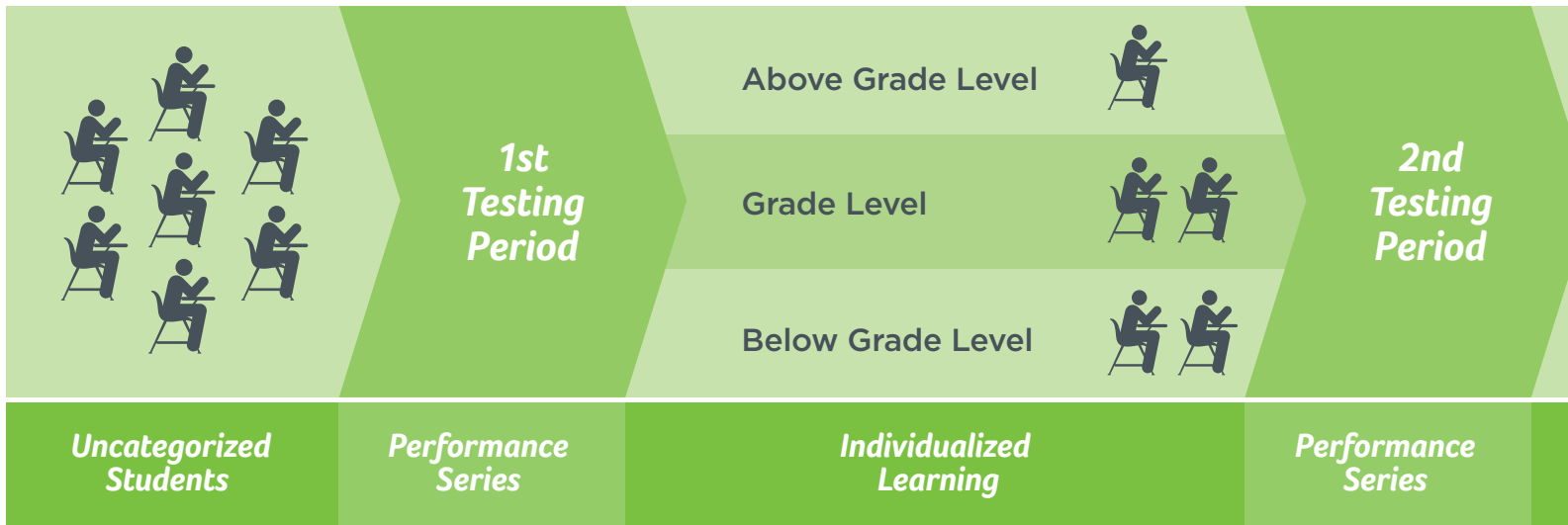
Students are not frustrated by test items that are much too difficult or too simple, leading to greater engagement, less time testing, and more time learning.

The result is a valid and reliable “scaled score” that you can use to measure academic growth just as you’d use a yardstick to measure a child’s growth in height.



*“When I began working with Scantron 12 years ago, I didn’t know what a treat I was in for. It continues to be a wonderful partnership. One of the best qualities of Scantron’s products is that no matter what has happened, Scantron has been there for us. After a year of looking at different products, no other product on one platform could fulfill all of our superintendent’s dreams. If I could have only one assessment tool to replace everything else I’ve ever worked with, it would be the Performance Series.”*

*Dr. Marylou Caldarera, Supervisor of Assessment  
Calcasieu Parish Public Schools*



### Developing individualized learning?

Performance Series enables teachers to create an individualized learning plan for each student based on their particular needs.

Scantron's unique Suggested Learning Objectives report organizes skills and concepts by ability level, according to the Performance Series scaled score.

These skills and concepts, aligned to your state's educational standards, help guide instruction by identifying the next steps for teachers, students, and parents.

In addition to supporting individual students, you can use Suggested Learning Objectives at the class level to design small-group instruction.

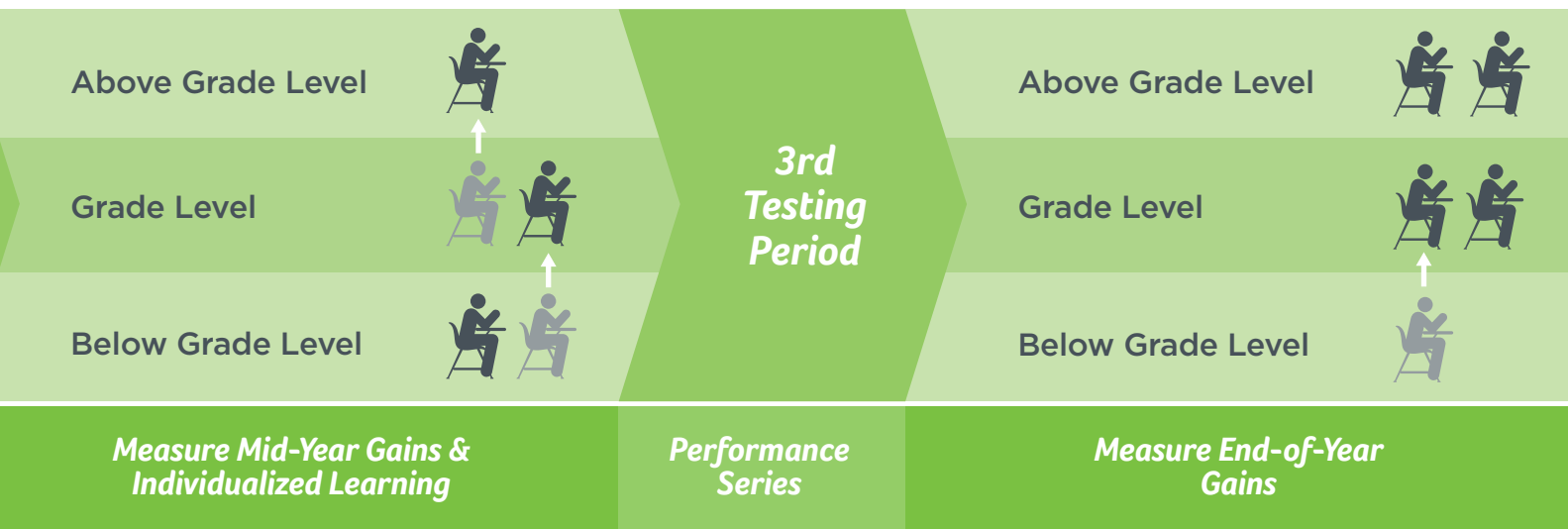
- Scores include a Scaled Score yardstick, National Percentile Ranking, and an optional Lexile® Reading Score.
- Student Learning Objectives detail specifically which skills and standards a student has and has not attained, so you can support students who are struggling and further challenge students who are achieving.
- All reports are aligned to your state's educational standards for easy correlation to teaching requirements.
- Performance bands allow custom criteria to be embedded into reports and enable multiple analyses by the varying stakeholders.
- Where prediction studies have been performed, reports can show predictive results on specified high-stakes tests.
- A suite of reports help provide and explain student results to your most interested stakeholders—parents.

### Providing transparency to parents and other stakeholders?

Performance Series gives you an accurate portrait of each student's instructional level over a wide breadth of knowledge.

- Immediate results allow you to place students in the appropriate grade, course, or group within minutes of being tested.
- Track individual student, school, intervention program and even district-wide progress.
- Fall/Back-to-school testing provides growth targets by grade level, quartile, or decile.

Available Subject Areas	
Reading	Reading Foundations (K-2)
	Reading (2-12)
English Language Arts	ELA (2-8)
Mathematics	Math Foundations (K-2)
	Mathematics (2-9)
	Matemáticas en Español (2-9)
	Algebra
Science	Geometry
	Comprehensive Science (3-8)



## Using Performance Series

Scantron Performance Series gives you more than a score. As concerns about overtesting grow, Performance Series enables you to minimize the number of tests you administer by using its scores for multiple purposes.

### As a Growth Measure

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) specifies that schools include a growth measure as part of their academic indicators. Given over time, Performance Series measures growth using a scaled score that identifies a student's abilities whether they are above, at, or below grade level.

We recommend testing three times a year, as shown above. This assessment approach enables you to:

1. Capture a baseline measure at the beginning of the school year.
2. Provide instruction to drive student learning and set growth targets from that baseline.
3. Measure again in the middle of the school year to ensure students are on track to meet their targets.
4. Continue instruction, adjusting where indicated by Student Learning Objective reports based on mid-year testing.
5. Measure again at the end of the school year to identify each student's actual growth, regardless of grade level.

### For Screening

A student's consistent poor Performance Series results may indicate a need for further screening. While some students simply do not test well or are bored with the material, ongoing below-grade test performance, combined with teacher observation, may indicate a deeper issue. You can use Performance Series scores as an early indicator for additional screening or to inform the design of interventions.

Conversely, consistent above-grade performance may also indicate a need for additional screening or more challenging work for the student.

### As a Through-Year Measure

ESSA specifically allows for innovative assessment approaches. One option many schools and districts are considering is replacing an onerous end-of-year summative test with through-year testing. Through-year testing enables schools to test at intervals throughout the year while learning is still fresh and consider scores as part of a learning portfolio.

Combining the scaled growth scores provided by Performance Series with fixed-form, on-grade tests from Achievement Series delivers a testing portfolio approach that can replace summative testing and give a clearer, more holistic view of student achievement.

***"We've gained back eight full days of instructional time—and we have the student score reports and instructional resources immediately."***

*Carol Cary, Superintendent of Secondary Education, Archdiocese of Philadelphia Secondary School System*

***"Scantron has helped us pinpoint (along with other data) the level in which a student is functioning,"***

*Karen Audett, English Language Development Assistant, Westminster Public Schools*

***"We have used the Performance Series assessment for ten years at Valley Oak, and we find it a very useful tool for identifying specific standards that have not yet been mastered."***

*Laura Fulmer, Director, Valley Oak Charter*

## Two Tests—One Platform

Scantron knows that testing time and resources are limited. You need an express-length test backed by the same capabilities as a full-length assessment but with fewer questions for faster results.

The Performance Series express-length option is your solution.

For more than a decade, Scantron has been rigorously developing and regularly refreshing the Performance Series item pools. Using these same item pools, the Performance Series express-length test provides flexibility with an eye on the clock.

- View express-length test results using the same reports available for the standard-length test.
- Assess the same core subjects.
- Use either test length for:
  - Individualized assessment for instructional direction
  - Program placement
  - Growth measurement
  - Predictive measurement (requires a Scantron research study)

Because the express-length test is shorter, you can administer the test in a single class period, reducing your overall testing load.

## Comparing Standard- and Express-Length Tests

	Standard	Express
Computer-adaptive test	X	X
Individualized assessment for informing instruction	X	X
Item selection	Guided by student response pattern	
Item pool usage	Shared	
Number of questions	52–68	25
Testing time	Average 45–60 minutes	Average 15–30 minutes
Standard error of measure (SEM) <sup>1</sup>	Average 0.30 logits (reliability $\alpha = 0.91$ )	Average 0.42 logits (reliability $\alpha = 0.80$ )
Reporting (all: student, class, district)	Shared	
Subjects		
Reading	X	X
Reading Foundations	X	X
Language Arts	X	X
Mathematics	X	X
Matemáticas en Español	X	X
Algebra	X	X
Geometry	X	X
Comprehensive Science	X	X

<sup>1</sup> The Performance Series standard-length test is longer, with more precision. The Performance Series express-length test is a shorter test with less precision but with more administrative ease of use. Be sure to discuss your needs carefully with your Scantron Representative or Client Program Manager before deciding.

## Part of a Complete Assessment Solution

Scantron's assessment solution helps educators meet accountability requirements, close gaps, and raise the level of student achievement. Measure growth independent of grade level and on-grade attainment of standards using a single platform.

Robust reporting, combined with connections to instructional resources, supports students and educators from the learning environment of a classroom to the evidence-based decision-making of a district or state department of education.



**INFORM INSTRUCTION  
TO IMPACT STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT TODAY!**

For a free consultation to meet your academic goals, call 818-927-2703 or visit us at [www.assessk12.com](http://www.assessk12.com) to learn more.

### About Us

Thrive Academics is proud to be the exclusive K12 licensor of Performance Series and Achievement Series Assessments. These timeless diagnostic, benchmark, and formative assessments were developed by Scantron, the pioneer in assessment technology and development.



✦ Excellent tutors sensitive to the learning needs of students

✦ Conveniently schedule sessions at your school/home

✦ Online sessions available using Zoom

✦ Math up to calculus & statistics

✦ Science up to biology & chemistry

✦ Help with special needs, ADHD, & autism

## PHILOSOPHY

**INVEST-** We *invest* in students by helping them conquer educational challenges.

**GROW-** Our students *grow* by putting what they learn into practice.

**THRIVE-** When growth prospers, our students THRIVE!

## QUALITY

Our tutors have high proficiency in all K-12 common core subjects: math up to calculus and statistics, language arts, reading, writing, history, and science up to biology and chemistry.

# HIGH SCHOOL ESSENTIAL

[thriveacademics.com](http://thriveacademics.com)

Voyage is an online program that prepares students for life after high school.



Voyage takes students through the stages of college and career planning while developing essential life skills needed for thriving in life.



Voyage is a fully animated, web-based program offering dynamic lessons in five modules that will teach students personal development, career planning, college planning, financial responsibility, and everyday living.

WHO I AM



COLLEGE



EVERYDAY  
LIVING



CAREER  
PLANNING

FINANCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY