

Competitive Learning Contest Preps Students for State Tests and Sets New Participation Records

The JogNog Tower Challenge completes its 5th year of growth

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The goal of state testing is to identify and help students that do not possess the basic knowledge required for their grade level. The goal for schools and teachers is to identify strategies to challenge these students to move from ‘below the bar’ to ‘above the bar’. One of the best ways to do this is to make sure that students don’t forget what they have already learned. The JogNog Tower Challenge is a team-based competitive learning contest that provides students with a fun and exciting way to review and remember what they have learned in class and apply it to state tests.

Massachusetts is ranked as one of the top states for student competence on Science, Technology and Engineering (STE) topics. Each year, schools in Massachusetts typically set a goal to move 1-3% of their students from the “Warning” or “Needs Improvement” category into the “Proficient” category for state MCAS tests – effectively seeking to move students from ‘below the bar’ to ‘above the bar’. It is rare that schools achieve these goals despite a multitude of efforts including changes in curriculum, teachers, and teaching methods. Remarkably, schools that have participated in the JogNog Tower Challenge have moved an average of 2.6% of their students into the Proficient category for each of the last four years. A result that is more than 5x more effective than any strategy previously employed at these schools.

The JogNog Tower Challenge for Science, Technology and Engineering (STE) runs from September to May each school year. Schools that join the JogNog Tower Challenge have access to nearly 100,000 review questions that map to the curriculum standards that teachers have covered in class. JogNog can also be used for summative and formative assessment and learning from a computer, smartphone, Chromebook, or tablet.

The JogNog Science Challenge uniquely motivates students to work together to learn and correctly answer as many STE questions as they can by providing a team-based learning environment with leaderboards, mastery

levels and badges for accomplishment. This year’s results from the state tests will be available when the next school term begins in September and schools that participated in the JogNog Tower Challenge are expected to show similar increases in school performance as in previous years.

This year over 1,000 schools participated and the students answered over twenty-nine million challenging review questions. This is more than double the number of questions answered in the previous year’s challenge.

This year’s top winners were North Middle School of Westfield, Massachusetts, Marshall Simonds Middle School of Burlington Massachusetts and John W. Rogers Middle School from Rockland Massachusetts. Winners also included schools from North Carolina, Georgia and Mississippi.

Steve Smith, CEO and co-founder of JogNog, commented on the success of this year’s program: “We couldn’t be more pleased that so many schools are taking advantage of this fun and competitive way to prepare for state tests. JogNog is excited to have been able to provide this program for the 5th year and to see such tremendous growth. We continually hear from teachers that their students come out of the state tests saying: ‘I knew the answer to that question – I remember it from JogNog.’”

About JogNog

JogNog is an easy way for teachers to review the standards and topics that their students need to know for their state tests in Science, Technology and Engineering. When used regularly, JogNog has been shown to have significant positive impact on state test scores. JogNog is available on the web for Google Classroom and Microsoft Office 365 users and as an app for iPad, iPhone, Android, Chromebook, Kindle Fire, and Windows Phone. For more information about JogNog, visit www.JogNog.com.

