

# Princeton Review Case Study: Socorro Independent School District

## Background

With a population of 42,600, Socorro is a fast-growing Texas school district following a year-round calendar and serving grades pre-K to 12.

### Ethnic groups:

- Hispanic: 91%
- African American: 2%
- Caucasian: 6%
- Other: 1%

**Free and reduced lunch status:** 75%

**English language learners:** 20%

## The Challenge

In 2008, the Socorro ISD elected to partner with The Princeton Review to achieve three main goals:

- Increase the number of juniors and seniors taking the SAT®
- Raise students' SAT scores
- Boost the average size of financial aid packages awarded

## The Solution

To prepare students for the challenges of standardized testing and the admissions process, The Princeton Review implemented three college readiness programs:

Intersession Intensive Course	Full Semester Course	Semester Extended Course
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 24 hours of instruction over a week and a half</li> <li>▪ 2 full-length, diagnostic practice tests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 80 hours of instruction over a school semester</li> <li>▪ 3 full-length, diagnostic practice tests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 104 hours of instruction combining the intersession intensive and the full-semester courses</li> <li>▪ 5 full-length, diagnostic practice tests</li> </ul>

In addition to in-depth test preparation from highly trained Princeton Review instructors, students also received guidance to achieve the following college readiness milestones:

- Creating a personal college research portfolio
- Completing at least one college application, including an application essay and a résumé
- Researching and applying for available scholarships
- Previewing the FAFSA

**Students in the full-semester course were also required to participate in a college fair scavenger hunt as well as a community service volunteer activity.**

## Why The Princeton Review?

**It's simple. Our strong track record of helping students succeed and attain their goals is well known in the industry.**

**Our knowledge and understanding of school communities, combined with years of collaboration with school leaders, makes The Princeton Review a powerful learning partner. In addition, our local presence in hundreds of communities across the country ensures successful implementations and strong program management.**



“Our partnership with The Princeton Review has successfully reinforced the efforts of sustaining a strong college-going culture. Our campus has been able to easily meet established goals as a result of the effectiveness of our Princeton Review classes. Not only are more kids taking the SAT, but we are seeing significant increases in their test scores. I am proud that my students have so many more opportunities thanks to The Princeton Review.”

– Nora Paugh, Principal,  
El Dorado High School



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# Report Card



## Goal: Increase the number of students taking the SAT

Students Taking the Real SAT	
Princeton Review Students	100%
Nonparticipating Students	10.7%

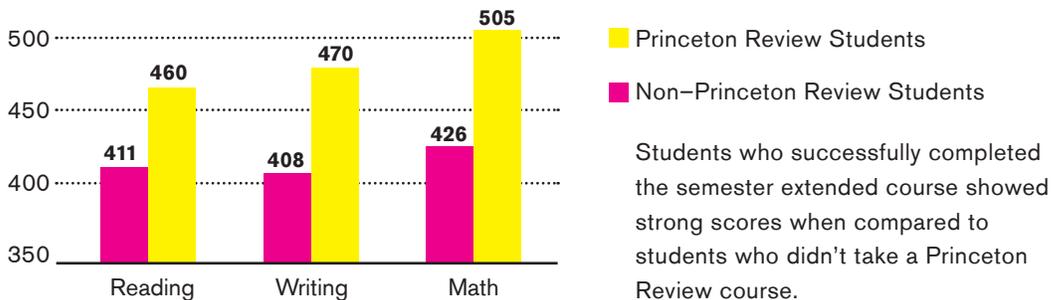
## Result: 100% participation

During the 2009–2010 school years, 750 Socorro students participated in The Princeton Review's college readiness programs. 100% of the students who successfully completed all of the requirements of the courses took the SAT.

## Goal: Raise students' SAT scores

Composite Score on the Real SAT	
Princeton Review Semester Extended Course Students	1435
Nonparticipating Students	1245

## Result: Princeton Review students scored an average of 190 points higher than nonparticipating students



## Goal: Boost the size of financial aid packages

Average Scholarship Dollars Earned	
Princeton Review Students	\$10,874
Nonparticipating Students	\$2,657

## Result: +\$8,217 in financial aid dollars per student

Students who successfully completed Princeton Review courses earned, on average \$8,217 more in financial aid than students who did not take the courses.

## Our successful partnership continues

We are currently serving approximately 4,000 Socorro ISD students. For more information and/or a copy of the complete study, contact [sbp@review.com](mailto:sbp@review.com).

This case study is informational only. Results may reflect variables not the subject of this study. This study should not be construed as an indication as to how average students, or students in general, will perform on the SAT by participating in Princeton Review programs. SAT is a registered trademark of The College Board. The Princeton Review is not affiliated with Princeton University or The College Board.



Had I never taken the SAT course, I would have never gotten the score that I have today. I would have never been focused ... or dreamed about the possible schools. It helped me get scholarships; it helped me get some awesome opportunities.... It's an awesome program.

– Natalie Toro, accepted by New York University

Our overall partnership with The Princeton Review has effectively reinforced the efforts of sustaining a strong college-going culture. We are meeting our goals of having more students taking the SAT/ACT, increasing their test scores, and having more students going to college with scholarships and a heightened awareness of how to navigate the college-going experience.

– Holly Fields, Assistant Superintendent for 21st Century Learning, Socorro ISD



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