



## Find the good writer in every student.

*Writing is more than a subject in school. It's an essential life skill that can shape a child's future. Now there's a solution that helps students learn the skills they need to become successful writers.*



Writing well is something that every student must learn. Yet some students excel where others fall short of expectations. Some people believe that writing is an inherent talent that few possess. We believe it is a skill that can be learned by anyone given the right set of tools.

That's why we created the AlphaSmart 3000. It frees students from the often frustrating process of writing (and rewriting) using pencil and paper.

Instead of striving for perfection using traditional tools, students can quickly and easily get their thoughts down, making revisions as they go. Because the writing and revision process is so effortless, they are more likely to make the kinds of edits that will improve their writing.

Students are never faced with the daunting task of staring at a blank page. The 4-line display helps them focus on the sentence they're writing, rather than editing other sentences on the page. Students may even write more because they feel less restricted by the boundaries of the page.

For those who struggle with handwriting legibility, the AlphaSmart 3000 takes care of that too. Once a writing assignment is complete, students can transfer it to a computer for special formatting, print it directly and hand in a neat representation of their abilities.

All these building blocks help eliminate the barriers to writing, as well as encourage students to practice what they've learned. This helps students develop the necessary writing skills that can translate into improved assessment and testing. When students succeed, we all benefit—as teachers and as a society.

Let us partner with you to help bring out the good writer in every student. Contact your AlphaSmart representative today.

### **Here's how AlphaSmart delivers writing results.**

**Accessible** – It's easy to use and far more affordable than standard PCs.

**Portable** – It goes where and when writing is taking place: classroom, field trip, library, and even home.

**4-line display** – Students write until they're finished; they don't focus on filling the page or counting words.

**Flexible** – Teachers can integrate the AlphaSmart easily into the entire writing process - brainstorming, creating a draft, editing and printing.

**Compatible** – With just the press of a key, you can transfer students' writing to a computer, or print it to a classroom printer.

**Simple** – It's as easy as taking out a piece of paper—type in your name and start writing. There's no waiting for a computer to boot up or software programs to open.

*"At Wellesley, we have found that AlphaSmarts have become a necessary and indispensable tool for the teaching of writing. We can really teach writing as a process. Student writing quality noticeably improved and our teachers became better writing coaches."*

*Tom Plati, Director of Libraries and Educational Technologies  
Wellesley (MA) Public Schools*

# Together we make a difference in student writing.

## Success at Denver Public Schools

### Overview

The Denver Public Schools (DPS) Department of Educational Technology set out to design a program that would not only support the integration of technology and writing at the Elementary School level, but also train teachers to incorporate technology into their daily instruction. A pilot study, not formal research, was conducted to understand the benefits of technology integration.

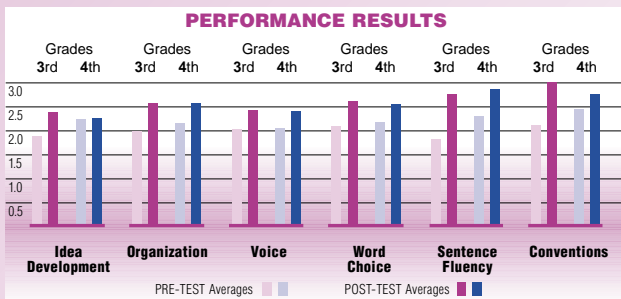
### Process

Formal instruction was given to the third and fourth grade students and teachers over a six-week period using the AlphaSmart as part of the writing process. The teachers then integrated the AlphaSmart into both the writing and general curricula as they chose.

At the beginning of the study, students submitted writing samples using paper and pencil in response to a Six Trait writing prompt (ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions). At the end of the project, students completed another writing sample using the AlphaSmarts.

### Results

*Student scores in all Six Trait assessment areas for both third and fourth grade classes improved from the pre-assessment to the post-assessment.*



*Increases in writing sample word count were also evident at both grade levels. The word count average for fourth grade student samples increased by approximately 18 words. A similar situation was evident as third grade average word count scores increased approximately 10 words.*

During the study, students commented on how much they enjoyed using the AlphaSmarts for writing. Teachers also made significant strides in using the technology in their instruction.

To learn more, contact Shannon Hagerman at [Shannon\\_Hagerman@DPSK12.org](mailto:Shannon_Hagerman@DPSK12.org)

## Test Score Improvement at Haverhill Street School

### Overview

The third-grade students at the Haverhill Street School in Lawrence, Massachusetts were recipients of an Adoption of Best Technology Practices Grant sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Education. The Haverhill Street School third-grade staff acquired one AlphaSmart for each third-grade student to use throughout the year.

### Process

Students began learning basic keyboarding skills, and engaged in more detailed writing activities as skills developed. Teachers then began using AlphaSmarts across the curriculum in content areas such as Science, Social Studies, Writing, Literature, and Math. These students were also responsible for maintaining a writing portfolio that included examples of work during the different stages of process writing.

As the year went on, accelerated students also became peer tutors who helped other students edit and complete final copies. Students with academic barriers appeared less frustrated when asked to complete assignments. Some students completed writing assignments when previously they struggled to get through a first draft.

### Results

*In 2000, 44% of Haverhill Street School fourth graders passed the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) English Language Arts test. In spring 2001, that number increased to 77%. The school outperformed every fourth grade in the city of Lawrence with regard to improved percent of passing students. The 2001 test takers are the third grade grant recipient students, with two years of process writing work with the AlphaSmarts.*

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS MCAS TEST PERFORMANCE RESULTS



*Significant success was shown by these children on the Metropolitan Achievement Tests (MAT 7) taken in the spring of 2000. MAT 7, published by Harcourt Brace, is a nationally-normed test designed to provide information about skill levels in reading and math. Language scores for the AlphaSmart users dramatically increased, and students scored 20 percentiles higher than the previous class.*

To learn more, contact Christine Maloof at [cmaloof@lawrence.k12.ma.us](mailto:cmaloof@lawrence.k12.ma.us) or Tracy Clark at [tclark@lawrence.k12.ma.us](mailto:tclark@lawrence.k12.ma.us)



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