



Case Study Brief: High Academic Achievement in a Virtual and Blended Learning Environment

This case study examines evidence to answer a simple question critical to the future of education:

Is virtual learning associated with successful outcomes for high-achieving, college-bound students?

To answer this research question, this case study examines outcome data from high-performing student-athletes in the Total Package Hockey Center of Excellence (TPH) and EdOptions Academy virtual learning program. The study examines data from 3,941 courses taken by students from 2017–21, including course-completion rates, course grades, formative and summative test scores, and survey responses.

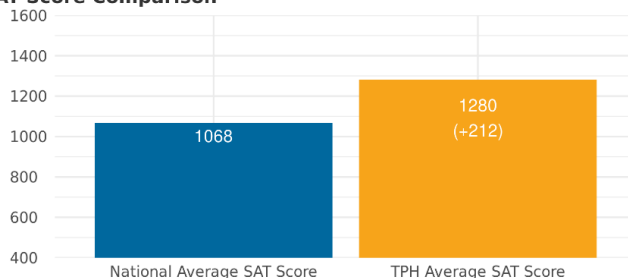
The EdOptions Academy's virtual learning model incorporates pedagogical practices that can both reflect and contrast with traditional classroom techniques. These practices include: establishing strong student-teacher relationships, employing only highly qualified, experienced, state-certified teachers, leveraging a variety of instructional tools and techniques, and utilizing a learning platform and curriculum, Edmentum Courseware, that is built on a foundation of research-based design principles.

Key Findings

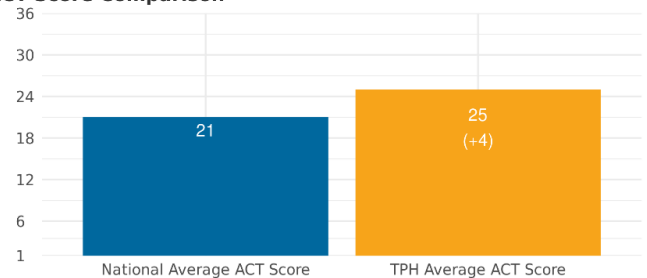
The findings documented in the case study demonstrate that students who enroll in TPH and EdOptions Academy have high academic outcomes that are critical to their success in school and beyond.

- **TPH students outperform the national student average on the SAT and ACT Tests** with an average SAT score of 1280 which is 212 points higher than the national average, and an average ACT score of 25, 4 points higher than the national average.

SAT Score Comparison

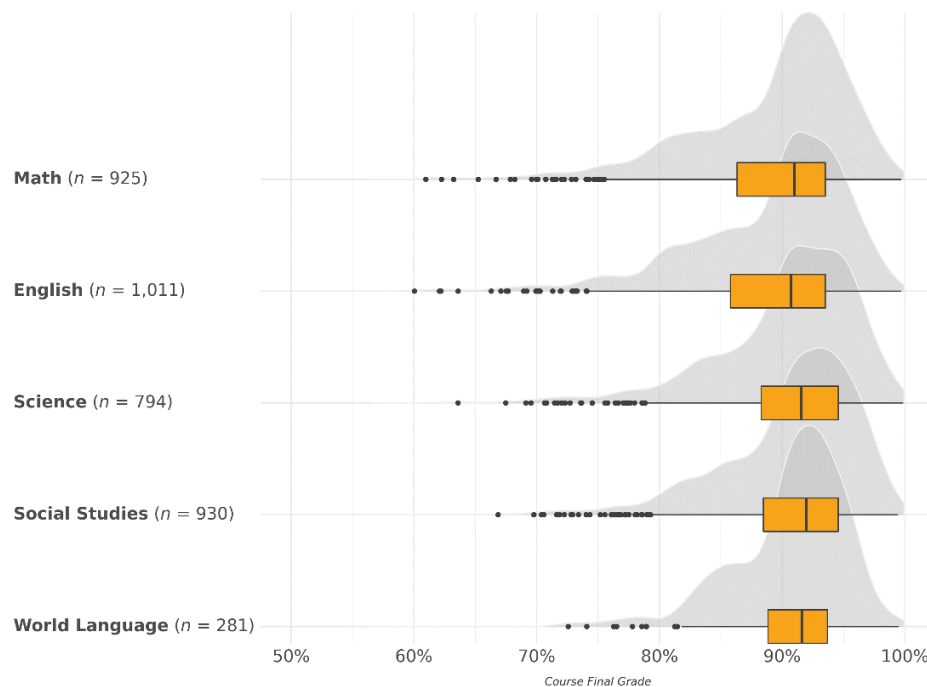


ACT Score Comparison



- **TPH students outperform the national average GPA** of 3.38 with an average GPA of 3.6.
- **TPH students demonstrate consistently high course grades** with an average of 90.5% across math, ELA, science, social studies, and world languages.
- **TPH students demonstrate consistently high course completion rates** of 95.4%.

Results clearly demonstrate that **TPH student-athletes using EdOptions Academy consistently perform at high levels of academic achievement** that matter to both K-12 and postsecondary success.



This figure shows the TPH subject grade distribution for each core subject. The median final grade for all courses in each subject area is greater than 90% and the majority of the distribution is in the 90-100% range.

Background & Conclusions

In 2017, two organizations, Total Package Hockey Center of Excellence and Edmentum's EdOptions Academy, collaborated to create an education system that would support the high levels of academic achievement required for student-athletes to be successful in K-12 education and accepted into NCAA programs at top universities. A flexible schedule to accommodate the demands of sport-specific training and competition, coupled with a high-quality virtual learning program, was key to the overall success of these student-athletes.

While the TPH EdOptions Academy program started small, enrolling about 50 students at the first two TPH Centers of Excellence in Hazel Park and Canton, Michigan, it has strategically expanded each year, and today, it has more than 460 students at nine Center of Excellence locations in twelve states. The Total Package Hockey program initially focused on the sport of hockey, but it has expanded to include athletes in other sports and has evolved its name to TPH Center of Excellence to refer to its academy-style, focused environment where dedicated student-athletes study, train, and compete.

This study demonstrates that, when students have access to virtual teachers and pedagogical practice that builds strong teacher-student relationships and have rigorous, research-based curricula that is optimized for virtual learning and that actively engages students, they can be successful at high academic levels and can outperform the national average on postsecondary measures of success like SAT and ACT exams.