



REINTEGRATION, GRADUATION, COLLABORATION:

A Behavioral Services Case Study

For students within Buckeye Union High School District experiencing behavioral challenges, Learn Academy solutions became the key to higher reading scores, math scores, reintegration rates, and graduation rates.

Outcomes Summary



Up to 90%
graduation rates for
program students



**Average percentile
rank rose from
4 to 14 on Star
Reading Comparison**



**Average percentile
rank rose from
7 to 15 on Star
Math Comparison**



**Highest reintegration
rates of any day school
in Arizona**



**Zero behavioral
referrals after
successful reintegration**



**Students return as
the **best-behaved** in
their classes**

The Background: A Growing District in Need of Better Level D Programming

Buckeye Union High School District (BUHSD) sits west of Phoenix in a fast-growing Arizona community with both suburban and rural characteristics. Serving approximately 6,000 students in grades 9-12, BUHSD includes three traditional high school campuses that enroll up to 2,200 students each.

Before the district's partnership with LEARN Academy, BUHSD's behavioral services leaned heavily on external placements for students with severe behavioral challenges (classified as "Level D" students). Those placements provided the best support possible at the time, but they often created unintended consequences.

Reintegration processes were limited, and many students never transitioned back to their home schools after being removed. Even when students did return, the transition could be abrupt. Both students and campus teams often struggled without the tools, frameworks, or ongoing support required to maintain progress.

“

Our goal is always to return students with behavioral challenges to their home campus in the least restrictive environment. As a district, one of the frustrations we had with other providers is that we never got kids back from them.”

— SCOTT ACTON,

Exceptional Student Services (ESS) Director, BUHSD

BUHSD leaders believed there had to be a better approach, but the challenges in front of them were too complex to tackle alone. The district needed a partner who could offer expertise, staffing, and therapeutic strategies that made successful reintegration a central outcome.

The Turning Point: LEARN Academy Finds Answers for BUHSD

SOLUTION SUMMARY

- ✓ Dedicated Level D Campus Within District
- ✓ On-Site Staff
- ✓ Individualized Programming
- ✓ Consulting, Training, and Ongoing Support

In 2010, BUHSD began searching for a way to fulfill the vision of student reintegration. The district enlisted LEARN Academy for its extensive experience in custom behavioral solutions and its collaborative approach to building programs alongside district leadership.

The partnership began with a pivotal shift: LEARN Academy helped BUHSD establish a Level D behavioral program within district boundaries, housed in a dedicated Learning Center. This allowed students with the most significant behavioral needs to remain in-district rather than being placed externally.

From the beginning, LEARN Academy helped provide BUHSD with the highly-trained personnel required to operate a comprehensive program. Today, approximately 40 staff members sourced by LEARN Academy support BUHSD services on site, including teachers, behavior specialists, counselors, and administrators. The partnership enables key services such as speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and psychological therapy.

Just as important as the staffing was the model underneath it. LEARN Academy implemented an evidence-based approach designed to support behavior change rather than manage behavior through disciplinary action. Students receive individualized support with a focus on building coping strategies, decision-making skills, emotional regulation, and social problem-solving, all while continuing to engage in consistent academic learning.

These solutions allowed BUHSD to move toward a system of growth and reintegration. Rather than removing students forever or transitioning them back abruptly, BUHSD and LEARN Academy developed a structured reintegration process designed to ensure students return when they're ready. Students gradually transition back to their home campuses, often beginning with partial-day schedules or individual class periods and expanding over time.

An Ongoing Partnership: It Lasts Because It Works

Over the last 15 years, the partnership between LEARN Academy and BUHSD has continued to grow. What began as four classrooms in 2010 has become more than 13 classrooms today, and LEARN Academy programs at BUHSD remain at capacity consistently.

- Graduation rates for participating students are approximately 90%, a signal of major impact for a population that usually faces huge barriers to academic completion.
- Students who have gone through the LEARN Academy programs achieve higher test scores in both reading and math, and they reintegrate fully at their home schools at increasing rates.
- District leaders also report decreased discipline referrals following reintegration and strong general academic growth tracked through ongoing assessment.

Meanwhile, students report feeling safe, being heard, and developing the coping and decision-making skills they need to succeed. Parents experience fewer crisis calls, reduced stress, and increased trust that the district can support their child.

“

The number-one thing we have to make sure of is that the students' safety needs are met, their mental health needs are met, and their education needs are met. We have to put the student first. Every administrator I've worked with from Learn Academy has been committed to this goal.”

— SCOTT ACTON

Discover how this could work for your district.

Visit thelearnacademy.com today.

ABOUT LEARN ACADEMY

For over 20 years, LEARN Academy has been dedicated to empowering districts and schools, enabling students to reach their fullest potential. Our scalable, student-centered solutions focus on improving outcomes, ensuring compliance, and increasing efficiency across educational environments.