



## Sacramento Academy Offers At-Risk Students Hope

Written for the web by [Jonathan Mumm](#), Reporter



For some students, the high school years are a difficult time in their lives and earning their diploma can become a seemingly impossible task.

To help dampen the annual dropout rate, the Sacramento City Unified School district has partnered with AdvancePath Academics to open the AdvancePath Academics Academy on the campus of Fern Bacon

Middle School in south Sacramento.

"We're dealing with students who have dropped out of school or are close to dropping out of school," said Tom Williams of AdvancePath Academics, "They need a little more attention and relationship building."

Friday, representatives from AdvancePath joined officials from the Sacramento City Unified School District in offering a tour of the Sacramento facility. It opened last August with an enrollment of about 118 students.

Using an online curriculum that they can also access from their home computers, students attend either a morning session from 8 a.m. to noon or an afternoon session from noon to 4 p.m.

Student Anthony Caballero said he finds it a lot less stressful tackling school work this way.

"You don't have to take a lot of notes and the tests are a little bit easier," Caballero said. "The teachers help you more."

The ratio of students to teachers here is 12 to one -- and the teachers said they can see the advantage.

"You just get a greater sense of who they are as a person," said math teacher Cory Fukuoka. "You get to know the ins and outs of their personality and what they need

to graduate. I feel like I have a direct impact on their graduation."

The program has helped students see obtaining a high school diploma as a very reachable goal.

"So now if I don't graduate, I know it's because of what I did, not because I may have had an attitude and a teacher may have gotten mad, but because of what I put into it," former Kennedy High School student Ashley Taylor said.

Sacramento is the fourth California school district to partner with AdvancePath. There are also academies in Michigan and Maryland.

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