

## Success Story:

### Mountain Peak Charter School

Vista, CA

## PresenceLearning Provides Charter School with Flexible Scheduling and Consistent Therapy for Improved Outcomes

### The Challenge

For Mountain Peak Charter School in Vista, California, providing students with consistent speech therapy was a longstanding issue. Forced to contract speech-language pathologists (SLPs) through an agency, Mountain Peak often experienced scheduling issues—whether it be the SLP’s inflexibility or missing sessions—which ultimately led to inconsistencies in therapy for students and an accumulation of compensatory time for administrators to resolve. The inconsistencies in the therapy affected student outcomes and administrators were left scrambling to make up for missed therapy sessions.

On top of the inability to find a satisfactory SLP agency, Mountain Peak has found that traditional therapy services are not flexible enough for its non-traditional instructional model. In addition to one brick and mortar facility in San Diego County that operates Monday through Thursday with an optional enrichment day on Friday, Mountain Peak also runs a homeschooling independent study program in each of the three counties the charter serves. With Mountain Peak serving approximately 650 students across three Southern California counties, it was difficult to connect both the students in brick and mortar school and the homeschooled students with SLPs.

### Choosing PresenceLearning

When the Coordinator of Special Education for Mountain Peak, Barbara Schmidt, heard about PresenceLearning through a former Executive Director of the school, she was skeptical about implementing an online speech therapy program.

“I was extremely hesitant and resistant at first because I come from a very long line of traditional SLPs,” said Schmidt. “I was used to the SLP working in-person with small groups or individual students. Online speech therapy seemed too different for me.”

After some serious persuasion, Schmidt decided to implement a PresenceLearning online speech therapy trial at the brick and mortar school so she could oversee the process.

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*“I’ve seen the quality and effectiveness of online speech therapy; I am now a firm advocate for online therapy.”*

**Barbara Schmidt,**  
Coordinator of Special Education,  
Mountain Peak Charter School

#### PresenceLearning

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## Benefits & Outcomes

Expecting a hiccup in the implementation process, Schmidt was pleasantly surprised with the therapy trial. She found that she not only loved online speech therapy, but the students and parents did, too.

One student involved in the trial, a fourth grader, had a severe articulation disorder, a condition that runs the risk of becoming permanent for an older student like this if therapy is inconsistent. However, consistent therapy with the online SLP corrected the student's articulation issues, a major triumph at an older age.

Mountain Peak used PresenceLearning with ten students and expects to increase this number, as well as begin using PresenceLearning's online occupational therapy services. "Now that we have implemented PresenceLearning, I find that it is just as effective as having a therapist in the building," said Schmidt. "I've seen the quality and effectiveness of online speech therapy; I am now a firm advocate for online therapy."

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