

## Teach Marine Bio Instead of Bio!

When we have given our presentation at conferences about offering this high school marine biology course to students in lieu of a regular biology course, teachers have asked about its effectiveness in teaching proficiency of the California State Science Content Standards.

In the below table are the California Standard Test (CST) scores on the state biology test administered to all students taking biology and all 10th graders (who all must take the life science test) of students at Animo Leadership Charter High School who took the marine biology course instead of a regular biology course.

2008	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Below Basic		Far Below Basic		Total Students	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
	Life Sciences	48	35.6	49	36.3	33	24.4	5	3.7	0	0.0	135
Biology	46	34.8	61	46.2	22	16.7	2	1.5	1	0.8	132	100

Animo Leadership is a public charter of 650 students. Admission is by public lottery based on completion of a simple application. It is a Title One school with 97% receiving free or reduced priced lunch. The school is 97% Latino and 3% Black in inner-city Los Angeles.