

SUCCESS STORY

Stanton Elementary El Paso Independent School District



ENVIRONMENT

El Paso Independent School District is located in the westernmost corner of Texas, sharing a border with Mexico and New Mexico. With more than 63,000 students on 92 campuses, EPISD is the seventh largest district in Texas. Stanton Elementary has an enrollment of approximately 600 students, Pre-K through 5th grade. The population at Stanton Elementary is 94% economically disadvantaged.

CHALLENGE

Stanton Elementary has been attempting to reach the State Accountability Rating of Exemplary for the last six years. In 2009 the school came very close to reaching the goal of a 90% passing rate in all subjects. The 86% passing rate in science held Stanton back from receiving Exemplary status. An additional barrier was the 5th grade bilingual population with a passing rate of 30%. The bilingual student subgroup has always struggled with science assessments due mainly to the language barrier.

SOLUTION

The Ignite! curriculum was implemented immediately after purchase in the fall of 2009 as a teaching tool for all teachers in 2nd – 5th grade. Used in conjunction with SMART Board™ technology, the school began to see positive results in student achievement.

The Ignite! digital content used with the interactivity of the SMART Boards™ brought a new level of engagement. This engagement reached them in a different way through stimulating visuals and engaging audio and helped them to better comprehend the content.

“In only a few months there has been a huge increase in scores.”

“I can honestly attest that this amazing increase of students passing can be attributed to the Ignite! curriculum and SMART™ technology!”

- Luis Carlos Loya, Principal

About Stanton Elementary:

- **Located in West Texas**
- **625 students**
- **94% Hispanic**
- **94% Free or Reduced Lunch**



RESULTS

Student Achievement

Three diagnostic tests are given throughout the school year at Stanton Elementary. These tests are designed to identify intervention opportunities prior to the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) given in the spring. On the second science diagnostic test given in December of 2009, after using the Ignite! curriculum with SMART technology for a few short months, the 5th grade bilingual students' passing rate jumped from 30% to an incredible 70%. By the time the 5th grade Science TAKS was given in April, 87% of the bilingual subgroup passed. In the general population, on the same test, the scores rose from 86% to 92%. **The campus received Exemplary status!**

One of the teachers at Stanton Elementary used Ignite! at least twice a week in his 5th grade class. On the Science TAKS, they accomplished a 100% passing rate, with eight students earning a perfect score, and 18 of the 20 were *Commended*.

Learning that Sticks

When using only the textbook, the bilingual students struggled with language comprehension. The Ignite! curriculum allowed for multiple modes of learning. The repetition in the media pieces increased connections between concepts and words.

"Ignite! provides visual samples and listening samples plus a glossary. Ignite! gives the tools for the bilingual students to hear the terms and put it in effect. They see them over and over again. When Ignite! provides the terminology and then reemphasizes it with video, the students are able to capture the vocabulary. Regular students are able to picture what is going on with the visual animation. They see it and fully comprehend it – like with the water cycle."

Student Modeling

In Stanton Elementary, 5th graders were paired with the 2nd and 3rd graders for peer tutoring. The use of peer teaching using Ignite! has increased scores for Math. The school has a 94% passing rate for the Math TAKS across all grade levels. 3rd grade has an outstanding 96% passing rate.

"It was amazing to see! The 2nd and 3rd graders were answering the 5th graders' questions. Even in 2nd and 3rd grade they are able to capture and focus when they see it put together with Ignite!. The peer teaching was reinforced with the videos."

LESSONS LEARNED

Mr. Loya discovered that using the Ignite! curriculum:

- **Catapulted the school into Academically Exemplary status**
- **Boosted engagement, leading to increased retention**
- **Expanded the vocabulary of the bilingual students**
- **Fostered a successful peer tutoring program**

**All quotes submitted by Mr. Luis Carlos Loya, Principal of Stanton Elementary*

