

Appomattox Elementary School

APPOMATTOX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

SCHOOL PROFILE

534 STUDENTS, GRADES 3-5
40% Free/Reduced Lunch
65% White
35% African-American

LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW™ IMPLEMENTATION

- Classroom/Computer Laboratory/Family Homework Model
- Fourth- and Fifth-Grade Title I Students, Began Fall 2000
- 100% Home Deployment
- Reading/Language Arts Focus

RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

Qualitative Reading Inventory

RESEARCH TIME FRAME

2002–03 School Year

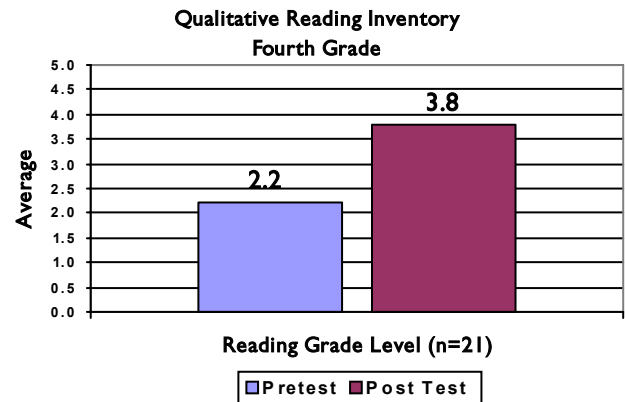
IMPROVEMENT DEMONSTRATED BY TARGETED FOURTH- AND FIFTH-GRADE STUDENTS IN READING

DURING THE 2002–03 SCHOOL YEAR, TARGETED FOURTH- AND FIFTH-GRADE STUDENTS AT APPOMATTOX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DEMONSTRATED GRADE-LEVEL GAINS IN READING. A COMPARISON OF THE READING GRADE LEVELS ON THE QUALITATIVE READING INVENTORY PRETEST AND POST-TEST SCORES REVEALED GAINS OF 1.6 AND 1.1 GRADE LEVELS FOR FOURTH- AND FIFTH-GRADE STUDENTS RESPECTIVELY.

APPOMATTOX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECEIVED A VIRGINIA BUSINESS-EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP GRANT DESIGNED TO INCREASE STUDENT MASTERY OF THE VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING. FOURTH- AND FIFTH-GRADE TITLE I STUDENTS AND ADDITIONAL FIFTH-GRADE STUDENTS SELECTED FOR INTERVENTION USED LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW™ IN THE TITLE I CLASSROOM DURING AND AFTER SCHOOL, IN THE COMPUTER LAB, AND AT HOME THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR. THE STUDENTS WERE ASSESSED USING THE QUALITATIVE READING INVENTORY BEFORE AND AFTER THE LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW IMPLEMENTATION TO MEASURE ACADEMIC GROWTH.

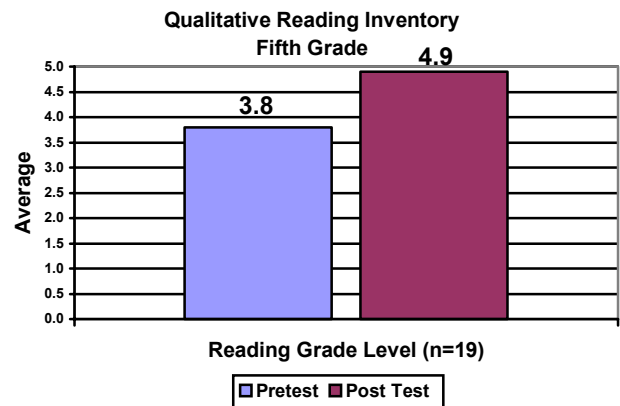
Fourth-grade Title I students show Reading-level gains of 1.6 in Reading

Fourth-grade students using Lightspan Achieve Now curriculum realized an average increase of 1.6 in Reading grade level when pretest and post-test averages on the Qualitative Reading Inventory were compared.



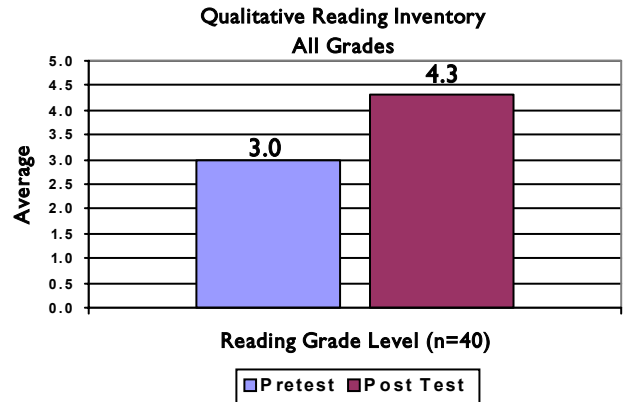
Targeted fifth-grade students demonstrate Reading-level gains of 1.1

Fifth-grade students using Lightspan Achieve Now curriculum at school and home posted average gains of 1.1 in Reading grade level with the Qualitative Reading Inventory.



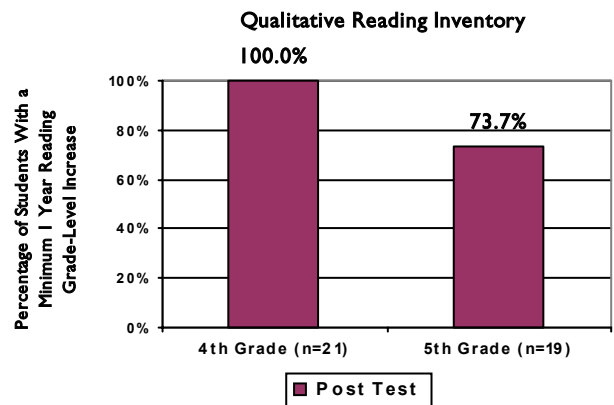
Lightspan Achieve Now students average Reading grade-level gains of 1.3

Targeted fourth- and fifth-grade students using the Lightspan Achieve Now curriculum realized grade-level gains of 1.3 when pretest and post-test scores on the Qualitative Reading Inventory were compared.



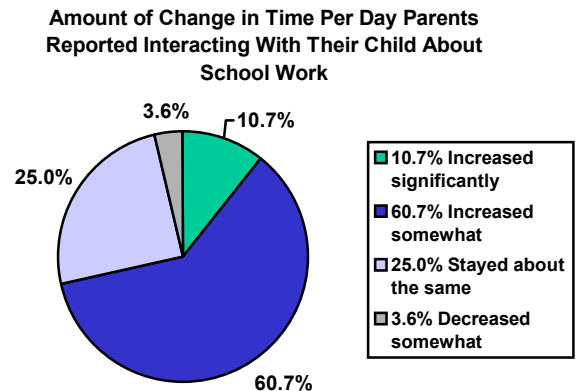
All fourth-grade students improve Reading grade level by a minimum of one year

Qualitative Reading Inventory results revealed that 100% of fourth-grade students utilizing Lightspan Achieve Now improved their reading grade level by a minimum of one year. Results showed 73.7% of fifth-grade students using the Lightspan® curriculum improved their reading grade level by a minimum of one year.



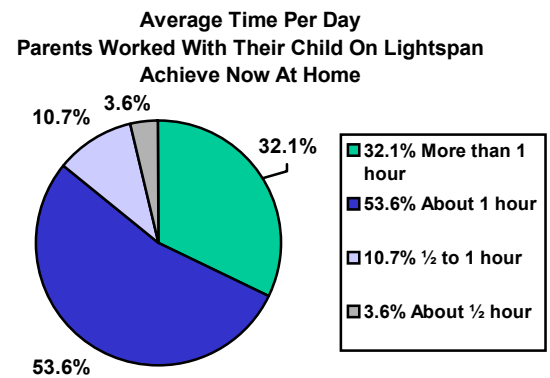
Families note increase in time spent conversing with their child about school work

On the Lightspan survey conducted at the end of the school year, 71.4% of students' families utilizing Lightspan curriculum reported that conversations about their child's school work increased somewhat or increased significantly.



100% of families report they work with their child on Lightspan Achieve Now each day

On the Lightspan survey conducted at the end of the year, 100% of families reported they average about 30 minutes, or more, per day working with their child on Lightspan Achieve Now at home.



Appomattox Elementary School Program Background

Appomattox Elementary School is located in rural central Virginia and serves 534 students in grades 3-5. Implementation of the Lightspan Achieve Now standards-based curriculum program in Appomattox Elementary School began in Fall 2000, funded by a Virginia Business-Education Partnership Grant. The project, "Building the Foundation for Success: Connecting Home and School," was designed to increase student mastery of Virginia Standards of Learning, to increase parental involvement in school activities, and to provide sustained high-quality teacher and staff development. For Appomattox Elementary, the grant allowed 47 targeted Title I students in grade 5 to utilize the Lightspan program as a teaching and learning tool at home and in school. In Fall 2002, the program was expanded to include Title I students in grade 4 and fifth-grade students selected for intervention. Also during Fall 2002, an after-school intervention program was added with Lightspan Achieve Now utilized for the Reading/Language Arts component.

During the 2002–03 school year, the Title I teachers at Appomattox Elementary School attended professional development sessions to align the Virginia Standards of Learning and the school's curriculum to the Lightspan curriculum. The teachers were able to align Lightspan learning activities and materials appropriate to their teaching objectives. Teachers also participated in program orientation and classroom integration activities during the school year. Throughout the school year, the Lightspan Achieve Now curriculum was used for direct instruction and learning improvement. The targeted students worked with Lightspan Achieve Now in reading, language arts, and mathematics during and after school and at home, thereby increasing student achievement and enhancing meaningful family involvement in student learning. All Appomattox Elementary School teachers participated in professional development sessions for Lightspan eduTest Assessment™. Teachers were able to create and assign tests aligned to the Virginia Standards of Learning and view reports of the disaggregated data.

Family involvement workshops were held during the school year, including an orientation in the fall and a culminating celebration in the spring. Families and their children were involved in activities centered on the Lightspan Adventures®, including student demonstrations of Lightspan activities. Families remarked how the Lightspan program improved their student's skills during the school year. Students reported that they enjoyed using the Lightspan Adventures for learning.

Results throughout the course of the implementation were measured by multiple assessments such as the Qualitative Reading Inventory, Ganske Spelling, Family Journals, surveys, interviews, Lightspan eduTest Assessments, and teacher records.

Expanded use of Lightspan Achieve Now is planned for the 2003–04 school year to include centers in all classrooms to supplement the Title I program. Through Lightspan, access to technology has been made available in an equitable manner for all Title I students. Furthermore, the Lightspan program involves families in their children’s education, links families to the school, and motivates student learning inside and outside the classroom.



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