

Austin Middle School

GALVESTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
GALVESTON, TEXAS

SCHOOL PROFILE

461 STUDENTS, GRADES 6–8
84% Free/Reduced Lunch
52% African-American, 28% Hispanic,
16% White, 3% Asian-American
1% Native American

LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW IMPLEMENTATION

Classroom/Lab/Family Homework Model
Grades 6–8, Began April 1999
Greater than 50% Home Deployment
Reading/ Mathematics Focus
Comprehensive School Reform

RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS)

RESEARCH TIME FRAME

2001–02 School Year

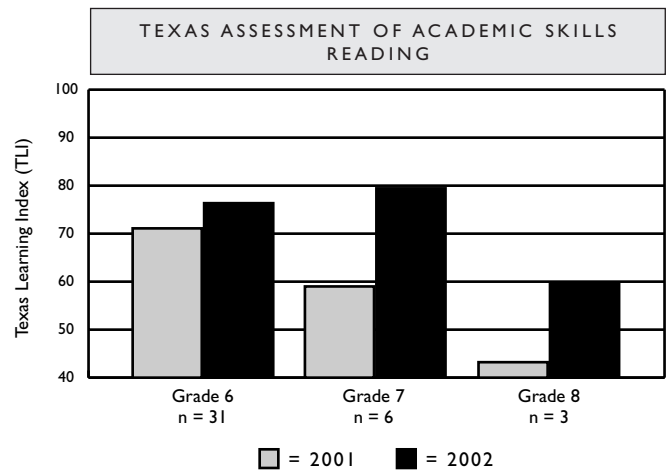
STUDENTS IN GRADES 6, 7, AND 8 POST GAINS ON TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF ACADEMIC SKILLS IN READING AND MATHEMATICS.

A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL REFORM GRANT PROVIDED AUSTIN MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW™ IN 1999. LIGHTSPAN CURRICULUM IS AVAILABLE IN THE CLASSROOM AND IN A LAB SETTING. TARGETED STUDENTS ALSO TAKE THE SOFTWARE HOME TO EXTEND LEARNING.

TEST RESULTS AS MEASURED BY THE TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF ACADEMIC SKILLS (TAAS) REVEALED GAINS IN READING AT ALL GRADE LEVELS BY STUDENTS USING LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW™, WITH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT GAINS ($P < .05$) OF 5.26 AND 20.43 TEXAS LEARNING INDEX (TLI) POINTS AT GRADES 6 AND 7 RESPECTIVELY. IN MATHEMATICS, STUDENTS USING LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW™ POSTED GAINS AT ALL GRADE LEVELS.

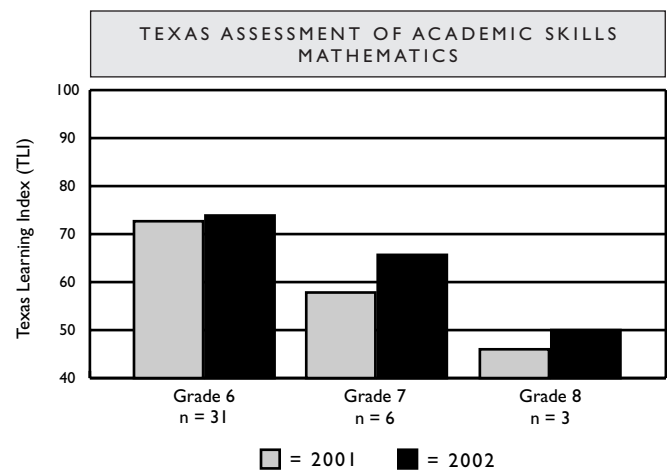
Austin Middle School Lightspan students post gains in Reading on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) from 2001 to 2002.

Students using Lightspan Achieve Now™ posted gains on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) in the area of Reading. Reading gains were 5.26, 20.43, and 17.33 Texas Learning Index (TLI) points in Grades 6, 7, and 8 respectively, with statistically significant gains ($p < .05$) at grades 6 and 7.



Austin Middle School Lightspan students at all grade levels post gains in Mathematics on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) from 2001 to 2002.

Students using Lightspan Achieve Now™ posted gains at all grade levels on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) in the area of Mathematics. Mathematics gains were 1.19, 7.83, and 4.00 Texas Learning Index (TLI) points in Grades 6, 7, and 8 respectively.



School Implementation Progress

Standards: The implementation at Austin Middle School has grown and changed over the three-year period due to a change in administration and perspective. Originally a school-wide take home program, Lightspan materials are currently being used in special education, alternative education classes and in a take-home capacity with students who are failing three or more classes as reflected on their district benchmark scores and report cards. Families are involved in Home Deployment and in celebrations of success. Progress is constantly being monitored through interviews with teachers, students, and families.

Curriculum and Instruction: Lightspan's interactive curriculum has focused on students in grades 6–8 whose Texas Learning Index fell between 55 and 79. There was also a focus on students who participate in English as a Second Language and Special Education programs. Targeted students received instruction using the Lightspan curriculum in the classroom, in a lab setting, and through home deployment.

Assessment/Evaluation: Multiple assessments to monitor student progress throughout the school year included: the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS), TAAS Benchmark tests, and teacher-designed assessments along with a CSRD School Self-Assessment. This Self-Assessment instrument was administered at designated intervals during the implementation to help the school evaluate the progress of the implementation and define next steps.

Professional Development: Teachers received professional development related to the Lightspan program annually in the fall and intermittently during the year. TAAS and TEKS objectives were aligned to individual student's needs in order to facilitate effective individualized instruction. TAAS data were used to determine which CDs should be used for instruction.

Austin Middle School Program Background

Austin Middle School is part of the Galveston Independent School District in Galveston, Texas. This school serves over 450 students in grades 6–8.

Implementation of the Lightspan Achieve Now standards-based curriculum program in Austin Middle School began in April 1999, funded by a Comprehensive School Reform Grant. The school is focused on improving scores on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) and has focused its Lightspan implementation on students who scored between 55 and 79 Texas Learning Index points on the TAAS. Student scores determine who participates in Home Deployment.

The project grant was designed to enhance interactive learning opportunities to students and families through the use of motivating curriculum software aligned to the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills. For Austin Middle School, Lightspan Achieve Now™ was implemented in the classroom, in a lab, and in a home deployment setting. The Lightspan Lab is available to teachers to sign up and bring their whole class. This is available once a week. During lab time the classroom teacher and a lab manager work with students on Lightspan software aligned to individual student needs.

Teachers at Austin Middle School attended a professional development session each fall to focus the implementation and have attended intermittent sessions to align Lightspan curriculum to the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills. Each classroom instructor and tutor has access to the TAAS and TEKS alignments that have been created.



10140 CAMPUS POINT DRIVE
SAN DIEGO, CA 92121-1520
1-888-4 ALL KIDS
www.lightspan.com