

Boiling Spring Elementary School

ALLEGHANY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
COVINGTON, VIRGINIA

SCHOOL PROFILE

176 STUDENTS, GRADES K-5
42% Free/Reduced Lunch
100% White

LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW™ IMPLEMENTATION

- Classroom/Family Homework Model
- Grade 1, Began September 2000
- Grade 3, Began September 2001
- 89% Home Deployment
- Reading/Language Arts/ Mathematics Focus

RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

Tests for Higher Standards

RESEARCH TIME FRAME

2002-03 School Year

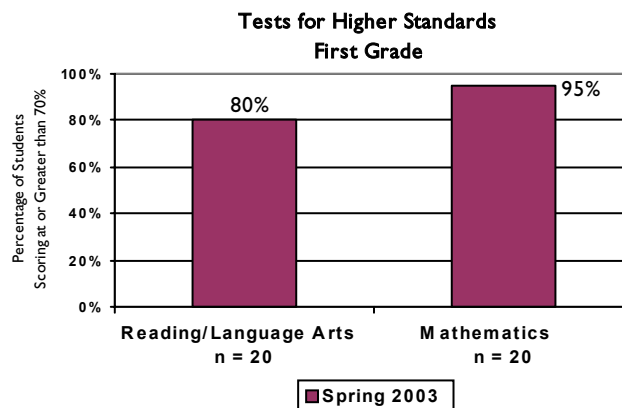
FIRST-GRADE STUDENTS ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN MATHEMATICS

DURING THE 2002-03 SCHOOL YEAR, FIRST-GRADE STUDENTS AT BOILING SPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL USING LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW™ DEMONSTRATED SUCCESS IN MATHEMATICS. RESULTS FROM THE TESTS FOR HIGHER STANDARDS ADMINISTERED IN SPRING 2003 REVEALED 95% AND 80% OF FIRST-GRADE STUDENTS SCORED AT OR HIGHER THAN 70% IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS AND TOTAL READING/LANGUAGE ARTS, RESPECTIVELY. FOR THIRD GRADE, RESULTS REVEALED 54.2% AND 16.7% OF STUDENTS SCORED AT OR HIGHER THAN 70% IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS AND TOTAL READING/LANGUAGE ARTS, RESPECTIVELY.

LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW™ WAS FUNDED BY A VIRGINIA BUSINESS-EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP GRANT IN FALL 2000. THE PROJECT, "BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS: CONNECTING HOME AND SCHOOL," WAS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE STUDENT MASTERY OF VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING. BOILING SPRING ELEMENTARY STUDENTS IN FIRST AND THIRD GRADES USED LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW IN SCHOOL AND AT HOME THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR. THE TEST FOR HIGHER STANDARDS WAS ADMINISTERED TO KINDERGARTEN AND SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS DURING SPRING 2002. IN THE SPRING OF 2003, THESE SAME STUDENTS WERE TESTED USING THE TEST FOR HIGHER STANDARDS AT THEIR CURRENT GRADE LEVEL, FIRST AND THIRD GRADES RESPECTIVELY. THE GOAL FOR THE SPRING 2002 AND 2003 ADMINISTRATIONS WAS A 70% PASS RATE IN READING/LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS.

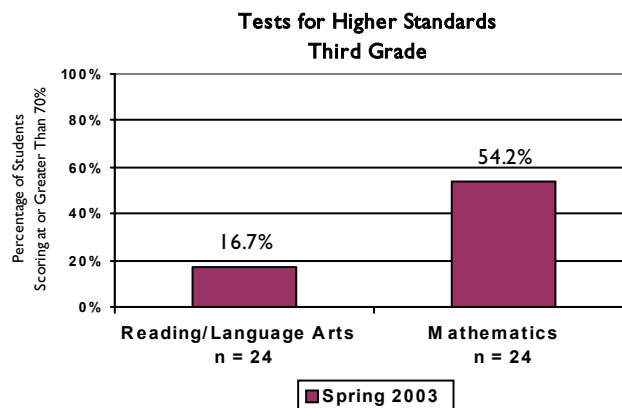
95% of first-grade students achieve 70% pass rate in Mathematics

Boiling Spring Elementary first-grade students achieved a 70% pass-rate score on Tests for Higher Standards administered in spring 2003 after using Lightspan Achieve Now™. In Total Mathematics, 95% of students scored at or higher than a pass rate of 70%. In Total Reading/Language Arts, 80% of students scored at or higher than a pass rate of 70%.



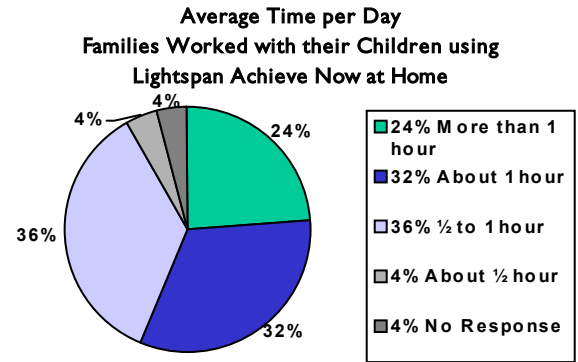
54.2% of third-grade students achieve success in Mathematics

Third-grade students using Lightspan Achieve Now successfully achieved a 70% pass-rate score on Tests for Higher Standards administered in spring 2003. In Total Mathematics and Total Reading/Language Arts, 54.2% and 16.7% of students scored at or higher than a pass rate of 70%, respectively.



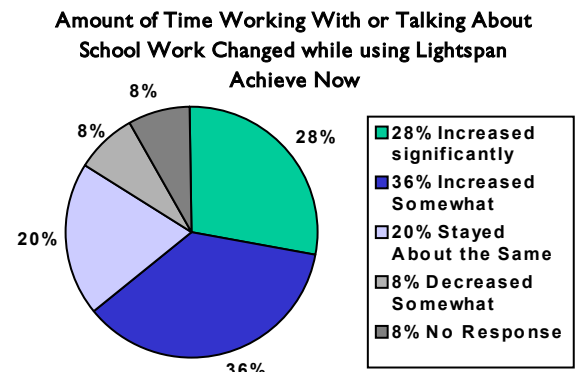
96% of families work with their children on school work 30 minutes or more daily

Results from Lightspan family questionnaires completed at the conclusion of the school year revealed 96% of families responded they work with their children, on average, about 30 minutes or more per day using Lightspan Achieve Now in the home.



64% of families increased the time spent interacting with their children concerning school work

Sixty-four percent (64%) of families who completed Lightspan questionnaires at the conclusion of the school year reported spending more time with their children working with or talking about school work while having Lightspan Achieve Now in the home. Specifically, families responded that interactions and conversations with their children regarding school work increased somewhat or increased significantly.



Boiling Spring Elementary School Program Background

Boiling Spring Elementary School is located in a rural, mountainous region of Alleghany-Highland Virginia. The school serves 176 students in grades K–5. Boiling Spring Elementary is one of two schools in Alleghany County Public Schools using Lightspan Achieve Now™.

Implementation of the Lightspan Achieve Now standards-based curriculum program began in Fall 2000 with funding provided by a Virginia Business-Education Partnership grant. The Boiling Spring project is called “Building the Foundation for Success: Connecting Home and School.” The goal of this project is to improve student mastery of Virginia Standards of Learning by extending quality learning time through development of positive relationships and partnerships among the school, home, and local business community. In the third year of the grant, teachers reported that few incentives were available through local partnerships. Two first-grade classrooms were originally selected to utilize the Lightspan Achieve Now program as a teaching and learning tool; and, a third-grade classroom was added in fall 2001. In spring 2003, the program expanded to include fifth-grade gifted and talented students in a computer lab setting.

During the 2002–03 school year, each Lightspan Achieve Now teacher attended professional development sessions to align the Lightspan® curriculum to Virginia Standards of Learning and to participate in related classroom integration activities. Teachers selected appropriate activities and materials for their teaching objectives. Throughout the school year, teachers used Lightspan curriculum for whole-group instruction. First- and third-grade students worked with Lightspan Achieve Now in reading, language arts, and mathematics at school and home. Teachers reported that severe weather impacted the school calendar affecting the amount of time available for program use; and interest in home deployment declined in the second semester.

Family involvement workshops were held twice during the school year as an introduction to the program and then as a culminating celebration for the year. Families and children were involved in activities related to Lightspan Adventures® including students demonstrating how to navigate through an activity. During the workshops, the importance of parents' active involvement in their children's education was discussed, as well as the responsibilities of teachers, students, and families. A third, mid-year, family involvement workshop originally planned to maintain student and family interest in the program was canceled due to severe weather.

For the upcoming 2003–04 school year, Boiling Spring Elementary plans to continue using Lightspan Achieve Now with first-grade students only. Through Lightspan Achieve Now, access to technology is available in an equitable manner for all first- and third-grade students. Furthermore, the Lightspan Achieve Now program involves families in their children's education, links families to the school, and motivates students to improve student achievement at school and at home.



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