

Texas District Improves STAAR Performance with Increased Use of McGraw Hill's Actively Learn

DISTRICT PROFILE

Name

Texas School District

Locations

Texas

Grades

6-12



Overview

The purpose of this study is to examine the test scores in a medium-sized school district in Texas before and after an increased use of *Actively Learn*, a rich, standards-aligned ELA supplemental program for students. *Actively Learn* brings interaction and deep engagement to student's understanding of classic literature and other complex texts.

Method

Aggregated, district-level data were pulled from the Texas state website for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. The data encompassed the percentage of students who either met or mastered the grade level requirements to pass the Reading portion of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test.

Currently, the district has approximately 32,000 students enrolled. Approximately 71% of students are Hispanic/Latino, 13% are Black/African American, and 9% are White.

Actively Learn use in the district increased from over 8,000 active users in 2020-2021 to more than 17,000 active users in 2021-2022.

Results

Across the grades examined, the percentage of students who passed the English and reading portions of the STAAR increased from 38% to 49% from 2020-2021 to 2021-2022 (Figure 1).

Student data from grades 6-8 were examined separately (Figure 1). Overall, a similar pattern emerged, in which the overall percentage of students who passed increased across the years.

Passing rates for students who completed English I and English II exams were also explored (Figure 2). Once again, a greater percentage of students met and mastered grade level requirements across the school years.



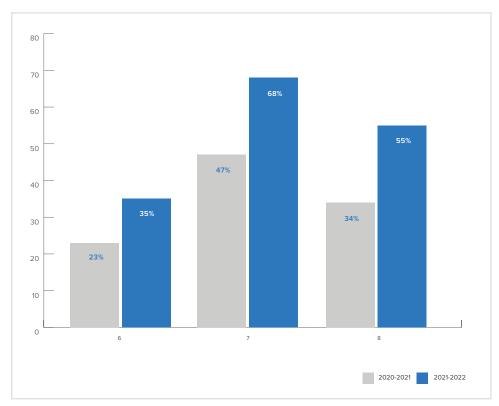
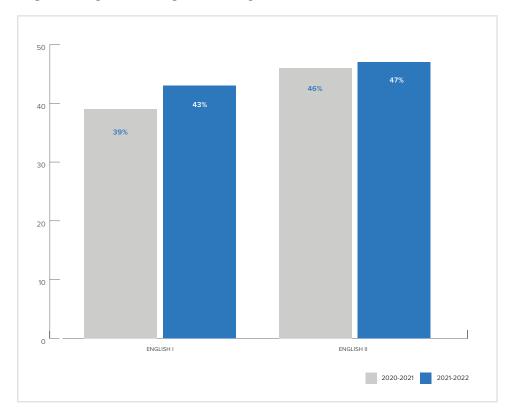


Figure 2: English I and English II Passing Rates



Conclusion

In this Texas school district, the percentage of students who passed the reading portion of the STAAR test increased from 2020-2021 to 2021-2022. This was observed in grades 6-7 and in English I and II courses. During this time, the number of *Actively Learn* active users also increased. While causal claims cannot be drawn regarding the improvement in student performance, the association between student improvement and greater *Actively Learn* usage in the district is a trend worth noting.