

Comparing 5th Grade STAAR™ Passing Rates for STEMscopes and Non-STEMscopes Districts with 361,095 Students

published on October 27, 2015

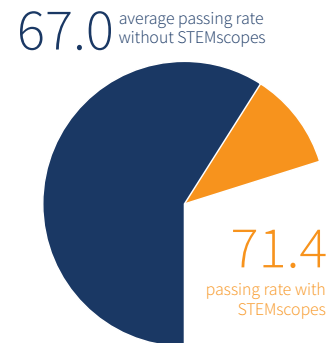


About STEMscopes Texas

Born in teacher professional development labs at Rice University, STEMscopes Texas is no stranger to teachers' needs. STEMscopes Texas creates a student-centric blended STEM learning environment where teachers are able to teach, intervene, and accelerate their diverse students. Combining digital resources, supplemental print, and hands-on kits, STEMscopes Texas adapts to your teaching style while increasing engagement, rigor, and student achievement. With a vast research backbone, extensive and continuous teacher input, and a 24/7 professional development portal, STEMscopes Texas sets itself apart from other publishers—it is truly a product made by teachers, for teachers.

Design of the Study

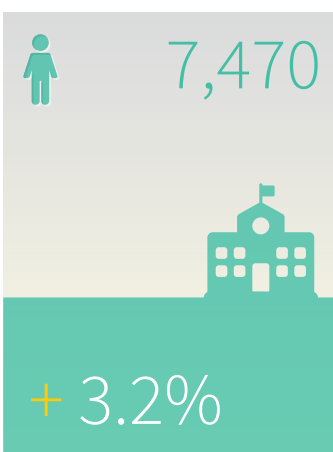
In the 2014-2015 school year, 5th grade students in Texas were assessed on their science achievement using the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR). The state average passing rate for all Texas school districts that include 5th grade (N = 1,162 districts, 361,095 students) was 68.2%*. Of these districts, 311 districts used the STEMscopes science curriculum for more than 50% of their student population, and 877 districts used either a district-created science curriculum or purchased a different science curriculum. The average passing rate for the STEMscopes districts was 71.4%, and the average passing rate for the non-STEMscopes districts was 67.0%.



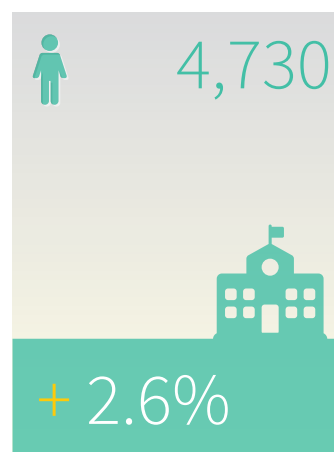
Overall Passing Rates

Using multiple regression analysis and controlling for demographic differences across Texas school districts including previous school year passing rates, the STEMscopes research team uncovered powerful evidence that STEMscopes yielded higher results on state standardized testing than other programs. Specifically, when comparing 5th grade Science STAAR passing rates, districts that used STEMscopes had significantly higher percentage passing rates (3.2% higher) versus districts that did not use STEMscopes—these districts used either their own district-created curricula or another publisher's curriculum. This difference was also especially pronounced with economically disadvantaged students who benefited from passing rates of 2.6% higher versus their peers using programs other than STEMscopes.

In the 311 districts that use STEMscopes for more than 50% of their 5th grade population, these results demonstrate that an additional 7,470 students overall and 4,730 students who are economically disadvantaged passed the 5th grade STAAR exam because they were in STEMscopes districts.



Districts that used STEMscopes had 7,470 more students overall pass the 5th grade science STAAR. This translates to a 3.2% increase in the overall passing rate for the 5th grade science STAAR in Texas.



Without STEMscopes, many students would not have passed high stakes testing. STEMscopes resulted in 4,730 more economically disadvantaged students passing the 5th grade science STAAR by raising the passing rate 2.6%.

* This does not include results from the STAAR Alternative, Spanish, and linguistically accommodating English version. Data retrieved from https://tx.pearsonaccess.com/tclp/portal/tclp.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pa2_analytical_reporting_page

About Accelerate Learning, Inc.: Accelerate Learning, in conjunction with Rice University, is focused on becoming the preeminent and most effective digital Pre-K—12 STEM resource used by teachers, students, and parents, as measured by adoption and usage by schools, districts, and families. With over 1.5 million student users, Accelerate Learning has grown from a single product, STEMscopes in 2007, to a brand that now offers a variety of curriculum and professional development solutions that support early learning, NGSS, and state-aligned curriculum to districts across the United States. Accelerate Learning has earned recognition in District Administration's Top 100 Products, SIIA Innovation Incubator, and EdTech's Cool Tool Awards. Learn more at acceleratelearning.com.