

 Measuring Up.

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# Using *Measuring Up*

Print and Technology  
Programs Together  
to Close the  
Achievement Gap

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**Research**

# Using *Measuring Up* Print and Technology Programs Together to Close the Achievement Gap

West Intermediate, Cedar Hill ISD, TX

## School Profile

**School:** West Intermediate

**School Enrollment:** 450

**Grade Levels:** 5–6

**District Enrollment:** 8,183

**Number of Schools:** 15

## District Demographics

**Students receiving free and reduced lunch:** 50%

**Community:** Suburban

**School Status:** Recognized

**Made AYP:** Yes

**Title I School/District:** Yes

## THE CHALLENGE

As in other districts in Texas, educators at West Intermediate in Cedar Hill ISD were struggling to bring ALL their students up to speed in science. “We faced a tremendous gap amongst subgroups and were trying to find an effective way to close the achievement gap,” says Crystal Tisdale, a fifth grade math and science teacher at the school.

## THE SOLUTION

Tisdale comments, “After doing much research, we thought that Mastery Education programs would be perfect for the needs of our campus.” West Intermediate has been using *Measuring Up* to the TEKS and *Measuring Up Express*®, alongside the *Measuring Up*® print Diagnostic Practice Tests (DPTs) and *Measuring Up Insight*®, for the past five school years.

Teachers use the programs together to monitor the progress of all students toward TEKS mastery. At the beginning of the school year, they assess with a print DPT, or a teacher-created online assessment based on their unit(s) of study. Scoring is easy and automatic when they use the online formative assessment system, *Measuring Up Insight*. Detailed *Measuring Up Insight* reports direct teachers to specific *Measuring Up* and *Measuring Up Express* lessons that each student or group of students needs to measure up to the TEKS and do well on the STAAR. Alternately, teachers can easily administer the print DPTs to their students, which also directs them to specific lessons that each student needs.

“Teachers were able to see the confidence level of students grow, which led to better performance in school.”

~ Crystal Tisdale

Then, once teachers know which specific TEKS-based lessons their students need, they use the *Measuring Up* or *Measuring Up Express* worktexts for teacher-led whole class instruction or small group instruction. Teachers informally assess students' TEKS mastery by assigning the open-ended *Measuring Up* apply activities as in-class independent practice or homework. In addition, students can practice answering test questions that mirror the STAAR format using the practice sections in the *Measuring Up* or *Measuring Up Express* worktexts.

## THE RESULTS

In fifth grade science, test scores rose from a 78% passing rate before using Mastery Education programs to an 89% passing rate after using the programs, a huge growth for this school.

"Teachers were able to see the confidence level of students grow," says Tisdale, "which led to better performance in school."

The school has been using the programs for five years and plans on continuing to use it, which is also a testament to their success.

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~ Crystal Tisdale

### West Intermediate TAKS Results, Science Grade 5

