

BENCHMARK TESTING AND CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

DISTRICT
 Northside ISD
Recognized 2005-06

INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION
 2004-05

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The **goal** of Northside ISD's (NISD) program is to improve performance for all students.

Key strategies include the mandated use of district-developed diagnostic benchmark tests and use of a commercial curriculum management system.

Outcomes include a district-wide increase in the percentage of students passing TAKS in all subject areas.

EFFECTIVENESS

Before

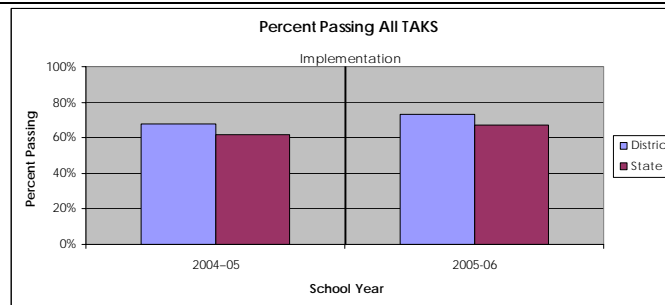
Prior to implementation of benchmark testing, in 2004-05, the percentage of students in all grades tested passing TAKS was 68%, compared to the state average of 62%.

After

After implementation of benchmark testing and the curriculum management system in 2005-06, 73% of students in all grades tested passed TAKS, compared to the state average of 67%.

Also in 2005-06, the number of Recognized campuses in NISD increased from 23 to 53, and the number of Exemplary campuses increased from 0 to 6.

In addition, the district was one of five finalists nominated for the 2007 Broad Prize for Urban Education, a national award given annually to school districts making the greatest improvements in student test scores while closing the achievement gaps among ethnic and income groups.



Source: AEIS

CONTEXT/IMPLEMENTATION

Demographics (2005-06)

Grade Levels Served		EE-12		Campus Enrollment		78,154	
Ethnic Distribution				Economically Disadvantaged		38,664 49.5%	
African American	6,270	8.0%		Limited English Proficient (LEP)		5,095 6.5%	
Hispanic	47,795	61.2%		At-risk		33,247 42.5%	
White	21,560	27.6%					
Asian/Pacific Islander	2,301	2.9%					
Native American	228	0.3%					

Source: AEIS

Background

- The district experienced 10% growth in enrollment between 2003-04 and 2005-06, with increases in the percentages of Hispanic students and students identified as economically disadvantaged served.
- The district did not have a uniform system for disaggregating data and monitoring instruction based on student performance.
- A new superintendent and assistant superintendent introduced an increased focus on data-driven decision making.

Procedures

- In 2003-04, the district began development of curriculum-based diagnostic benchmark (CDB) tests with the participation of curriculum specialists who analyzed the scope and sequence, the TEKS, and resource materials and developed a bank of test items.
- Test items were aligned to the TEKS, translated into Spanish (for elementary bilingual students), and made available to campuses.
- A CDB test calendar was developed.
- The superintendent set the expectation for consistent use of CDB test results for all students.
- District staff began analyzing data from the benchmark tests in 2004-05 with the implementation of a district "data day." Data notebooks were presented to all campus principals and other administrators based on this analysis.
- In 2005-06, the district identified a commercial curriculum management system to house district curriculum and

	<p>testing data and began a five-phased process for implementation of the new system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual student data (going back at least three years) and benchmark test results were loaded into the system. • The system allowed immediate feedback on test results to campuses and departments. • District staff conducted weekly meetings to analyze district data and visits to schools based on ongoing data review to assist campus administrators in planning for school improvement. • At the campus level, principals and teachers also used CDB results to monitor instruction and plan interventions. Instructional specialists met with grade-level teams to assist in planning instruction based on CDB results. 		
	<p>DISTRICT STAFF</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Dr. Linda Mora, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Northside ISD 5900 Evers Road San Antonio, TX 78238 210-397-8770</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Dr. John Folks, Superintendent Northside ISD 5900 Evers Road San Antonio, TX 78238 210-397-8770</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Dr. Linda Mora, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Northside ISD 5900 Evers Road San Antonio, TX 78238 210-397-8770</p>	<p>Dr. John Folks, Superintendent Northside ISD 5900 Evers Road San Antonio, TX 78238 210-397-8770</p>
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Please take one minute to answer the feedback survey (six questions).

[Best Practices Feedback Survey](#)