



San Elizario ISD Raises Passing Rate on STAAR Grade 5 Science Assessment by 20 Percentage Points by Using the STEMscopes Digital STEM Curriculum

HOUSTON — Nov. 1, 2016 — In 2016, 77 percent of fifth graders in [San Elizario Independent School District](#) (ISD) successfully passed the STAAR® science test, up from 57 percent in 2015. What changed? During the 2015-16 school year, teachers began using [STEMscopes™ Texas](#) as their primary science curriculum. Developed by [Accelerate Learning™](#) and Rice University, STEMscopes is the most widely used science curriculum in Texas.

“Two years ago, our fifth grade teachers were using a hodgepodge of resources and our science scores dropped. Last year, they decided to make STEMscopes their primary science curriculum and the percentage of students passing the STAAR Grade 5 Science Assessment rose by 20 points,” said Deborah Cortez, science and math instructional officer for San Elizario ISD. “That gain is huge, especially considering the number of English language learners in our district. To further illustrate this marked improvement, all three of our elementary campuses received the academic distinction of ‘achievement in science’ through the state accountability system.”

In San Elizario ISD, which is approximately 15 miles southeast of El Paso, the student population is 99 percent Hispanic, 96 percent economically disadvantaged, 72 percent at-risk, and 50 percent limited English proficient. According to Cortez, the district chose to implement STEMscopes because the digital STEM curriculum is 100 percent aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and it is rooted in the [5E instructional model](#). Today San Elizario ISD uses STEMscopes district-wide in grades K–8, as well as a Spanish version that is available for grades K–5. It is also using [STEMscopes Early Explorer](#) in prekindergarten.

“Our students love STEMscopes and our teachers love having so many resources within the 5E model — particularly within the ‘Explain’ and ‘Elaborate’ phases, which are very helpful for English learners. Our teachers also appreciate that it’s so user-friendly and that it provides support for them as well,” said Cortez. “With STEMscopes, our students are now more excited about STEM and they have more confidence.”

STEMscopes provides teacher and student digital resources, supplemental print materials, and hands-on exploration kits that build student engagement and excitement for learning. [Studies](#) show that students who use STEMscopes Texas have higher passing rates on science assessments such as the [STAAR](#). In addition, in

[prekindergarten](#) programs that use STEMscopes Early Explorer, teachers spend more time on STEM.

About Accelerate Learning

Founded at Rice University, Accelerate Learning has grown from a single product, STEMscopes, to a brand that now offers a variety of curriculum and professional development solutions that support early learning, Next Generation Science Standards, and state-aligned curriculum.

Accelerate Learning has earned recognition as one of *District Administration's* Top 100 Products, and from numerous industry programs, including the Digital Innovation and Learning Awards, the Association of American Publishers' Revere Awards, and *EdTech Digest's* Cool Tool Awards.

For more information, visit <http://acceleratelearning.com> or call toll-free 800-531-0864

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