



INNOVATING SUCCESS

“Whether a student speaks English or Spanish, Adaptive Curriculum meets students where they are.”

– Timothy J. Johnson



Stephen F. Austin High School Houston ISD Houston, Texas

School Statistics

- 1,850 students
- Grades 9-12
- Urban
- <http://sfamustangs.org/index.html>

Student Population

- <1% Asian/Pacific Islander
- <1% Caucasian
- 2% African-American
- 15% Special education
- 22% Limited English proficiency
- 95% Economically disadvantaged
- 97% Latino-American

Austin High School Improves Student Performance with AC Science Texas

Challenge

Stephen F. Austin High School is one of 44 high schools in the Houston Independent School District (ISD), the largest public school system in Texas and the seventh largest in the United States. In 2011, the percentages of Austin High School students passing the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) grade 11 exit-level exams were 79 percent in science, 81 percent in mathematics, 86 percent in English language arts, and 94 percent in social studies.

“Of the four content areas, science was an area of concern in terms of our standardized test scores. Students usually performed better in English language arts and social studies than they did in science and math,” Timothy J. Johnson said, a science teacher now in his 28th year of teaching and science department chair at Austin High School.

“In 2011, our district looked at nine different solutions that were approved as part of the state’s Supplemental Science Materials adoption and we decided on Adaptive Curriculum,” he said. “I liked that the program has a lot of built-in formative assessment and that it gives immediate feedback to the student and teacher, alike. Another thing that stood out for me is that it has several features to support English language learners (ELLs), which is important for our population here in Houston.”

Implementation

Austin High School began using Adaptive Curriculum (AC) Science Texas™ in spring 2012. AC Science Texas™ is an innovative concept mastery solution that strengthens science performance by helping middle and high school students build a deep understanding of core concepts and skills. The web-based program provides full coverage of the new Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Science in grades 5-8, biology, chemistry, integrated physics and chemistry (IPC), and physics.

At Austin High School, AC Science Texas™ is used in grades 9-12 in a variety of classes, including biology, chemistry, and physics. Teachers use the program’s instructional units, called Activity Objects, to provide individualized, small-group and whole-group instruction.



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