

FOCUS ON SCIENCE VOCABULARY

CAMPUS

Fred H. Tally Elementary School
Recognized 2005-06

DISTRICT

Kerrville ISD

INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION

2004-05

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The **goal** of Tally Elementary’s program is to improve student performance in science.

Key strategies include a review of the science TEKS and the district scope and sequence and efforts to increase instructional focus on science vocabulary development.

Outcomes include improvement in the percentage of students passing science TAKS.

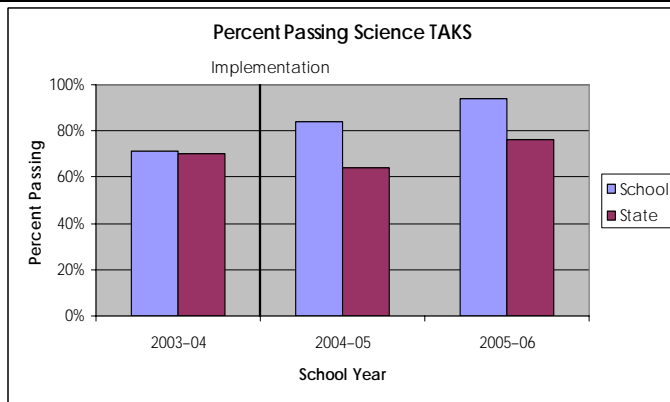
EFFECTIVENESS

Before

Prior to program implementation, in 2003-04, the percentage of grade 5 students passing science TAKS was 71%, compared to the state average of 70%.

After

After implementation, the percentage of grade 5 students passing science TAKS improved, with 94% passing in 2005-06, compared to the state average of 76%.



Source: AEIS

CONTEXT/IMPLEMENTATION

Demographics (2005-06)

Grade Levels Served		PK-5	Campus Enrollment		528	
Ethnic Distribution			Economically Disadvantaged			
African American	31	5.9%		275	52.1%	
Hispanic	220	41.7%		At-risk	231	43.8%
White	273	51.7%		Mobility (2004-05)	95	19.8%

Source: AEIS

Background

- Staff reported that in the past science performance had kept the school from receiving a Recognized accountability rating.

Procedures

- A vertical team was formed to study science instruction and learning.
- The team reviewed disaggregated student data, amount of instructional time devoted to science, and science classroom instructional methodologies.
- The team identified the need to improve student understanding of scientific terminology as a priority.
- The team created a list of critical science vocabulary from TEKS, TAKS, and the district scope and sequence across grade levels.
- Teachers developed appropriate grade-level instructional activities using the vocabulary list in the form of pictures, flashcards, student projects, games, computer representations, and student drawings.
- Targeted use of vocabulary was incorporated into daily science lessons, including classroom experiments and field experiments.
- Teachers networked across the district to share vocabulary techniques with other teachers at other campuses.

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Please take one minute to answer the feedback survey (six questions).

[Best Practices Feedback Survey](#)