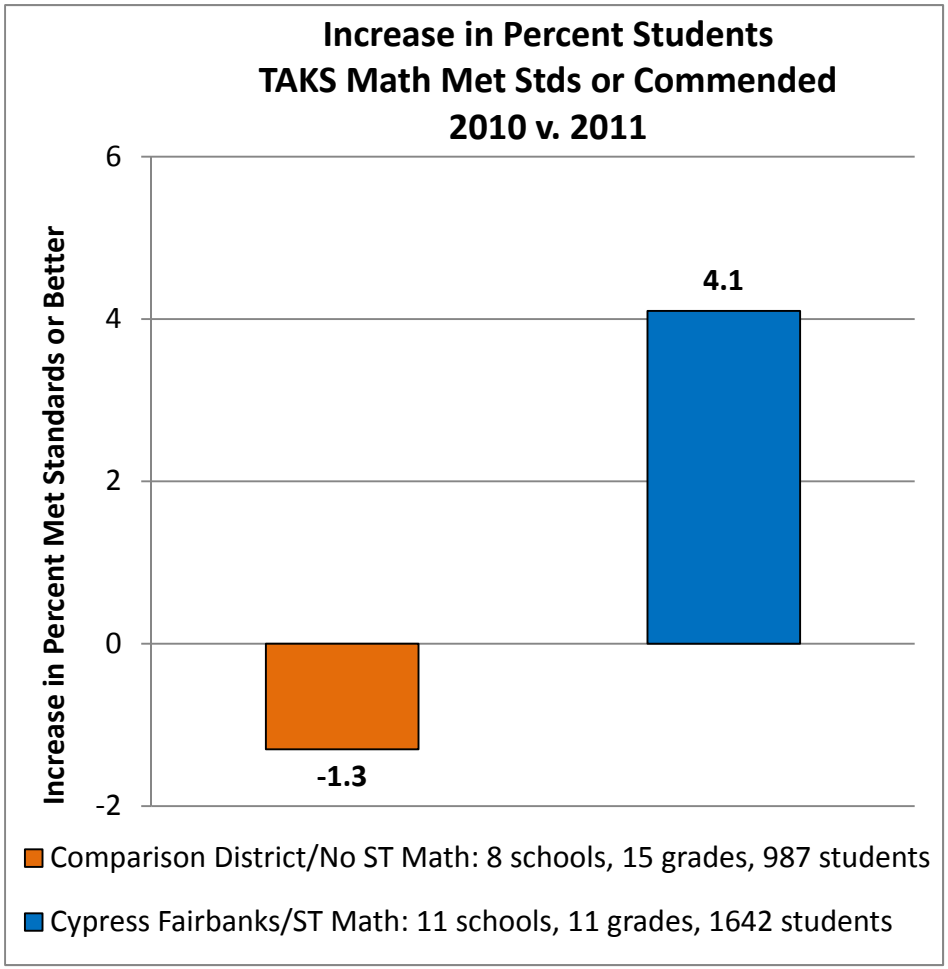
Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Growth 2010-2011

MIND Research Institute

Subjects: MIND Research Institute analyzed lower performing schools in Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District for Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) math proficiency growth in the 2010/11 school year. All Cypress-Fairbanks ISD elementary schools were analyzed for 2010/11 student enrollment in the program (≥ 85%); implementation of program (≥ 25% as measured by digital student usage); and having TAKS Met Standards levels < 90% in 2009/10. This report focuses on 11 schools meeting these requirements and implementing the program at grades 3, 4, and/or 5, with altogether 11 grades and 1642 students using the program. A comparison district was chosen, in consultation with the Texas Education Agency, to have similar size and demographics. Lamar Consolidated Independent School District did not participate in the program in 2010/11, and all its similar lower-performing grades (<90% Met Standards in 2009/10) were included in this analysis: 8 schools, 15 grades, 987 students.



Program: In each grade using the program, all students and teachers are licensed to participate. The ST Math program consists of supplemental math instructional software which covers Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) math standards at each grade level. The software presents the mathematics as a year-long curriculum of interactive, animated visual diagrams, or puzzles, for the students to solve. The students use the self-starting, self-paced instructional software twice per week under the teacher's supervision. The teacher is trained to also use the software's visual representations of mathematics concepts during regular classroom lessons, to connect to the conventional language-intensive math instruction.

Data Collection: The average (TAKS) math achievement levels distributions, and student enrollment, were collected for each grade level for the years 2009/10 and 2010/11 from the Texas Education Agency website. Each year the data indicate the percentage of students at each grade who tested into the 3 different levels of math achievement. The Met Standards Level is considered grade level proficiency. The average MIND Research Institute program implementation percentage and student enrollment in the MIND software were collected from MIND's usage data.

Analysis Summary: Changes from 2009/10 to 2010/11 in the percent of students at Met Standards or higher proficiency, were evaluated for the program group and also the comparison group of schools. A grade-wise growth comparison was evaluated (i.e. growth in same grade, same school, from 2009/10 school year to 2010/11 school year) and then aggregated across grades and schools.

Results: The grades implementing ST Math grew 4.1 points, as compared to a decrease of 1.3 points in the comparison district.