

Evidence of Excellence



Over three years, student writing achievement increased by

21%



HUNTSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS



LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER



615 STUDENTS / 68% FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH / 28% ENGLISH LEARNERS / 16% SPECIAL NEEDS

**42% HISPANIC OR LATINO / 35% WHITE / 19% BLACK / 3% MULTIRACIAL /
0.7% AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE / 0.2% ASIAN**

CHALLENGE

Huntsville Elementary School has had a remarkable journey from where it started. **The campus had experienced five different principals in six years, an 80% staff turnover rate, no systems for planning, interventions or behavior, and an “improvement required” rating from the state.** Huntsville Elementary was in critical need of serious change.

Leadership tackled these challenges by first surveying staff needs for personal and professional development, establishing a new master schedule, creating mandatory Wednesday collaborative team meetings focused on the PLC process, and prioritizing the creation of a positive school climate. At the end of the year, even though campus data had improved, Huntsville was still rated an “improvement required” campus, and they were now looking at a Year 2 critical situation.

Due to accountability and the severity of being an “improvement required” Year 2 campus, a large focus fell on third- and fourth-grade data tracking in an effort to capture all students and improve upon STAAR results. **The school worked hard to establish a stable climate and culture focused on the PLC process.** They were able to retain 90% of the staff in the second year of this work and gain academic coaches for reading and mathematics, as well as finalize their school improvement effort with their Regional Service Center. In addition, the district now had new leadership, and this leadership announced the beginning of a partnership with Solution Tree.

IMPLEMENTATION

Huntsville Elementary School engaged in PLC at Work processes and practices with Solution Tree coaches Robin Noble and Karen Power. When they first completed a campus needs assessment, staff were excited to discover

that the majority of the areas assessed fell in the realm of “practicing” category with only a few areas still in “attempting.” This meant that **they were well on their way to embracing school improvement practices that would help leverage student learning and achievement.** It was during this year that the campus began to identify essential standards and develop proficiency maps that would allow teachers to focus their efforts.

Teachers started collaborating around the essentials and monitoring data frequently to guarantee that the standards were being met. It was during this year that they **established an intense system of interventions shared by all grade levels.** Several staff members attended an RTI at Work™ Institute and returned ready to share with their teams what they had learned.

Through the use of the RTI pyramid, teams began to work collaboratively with students through interventions. These interventions focused on specific skills within the essentials. Teachers were now able to track student progress across all grade levels.

Then, just when staff were getting really comfortable with the processes, COVID-19 developed and everything shifted to remote learning. There was no state assessment that year, but Huntsville educators were able to track steady improvements across the grade levels up to the in-person learning dismissal for COVID-19.

- Connected with Solution Tree associates Robin Noble and Karen Power
- Staff attended RTI at Work Institute
- Developed essential standards, proficiency maps, and intervention systems



Once you start going to a school where people are happy and supportive, it just changes everything. Kids are intuitive to that. If we expect students to be successful, we need to have a positive culture.

HEATHER BELL / INSTRUCTIONAL COACH

RESULTS

Huntsville Elementary has gone from a campus of turmoil and survival to one where student achievement is the primary focus. As they have learned and tightened up the PLC process, the culture has positively shifted and school staff understand the importance of facing the facts with current reality and continually adjusting to do what is best for “our students.” As instructional coach Heather Bell puts it, “We are looking at data and creating an action plan. We face our current reality and identify what we want to do better.”

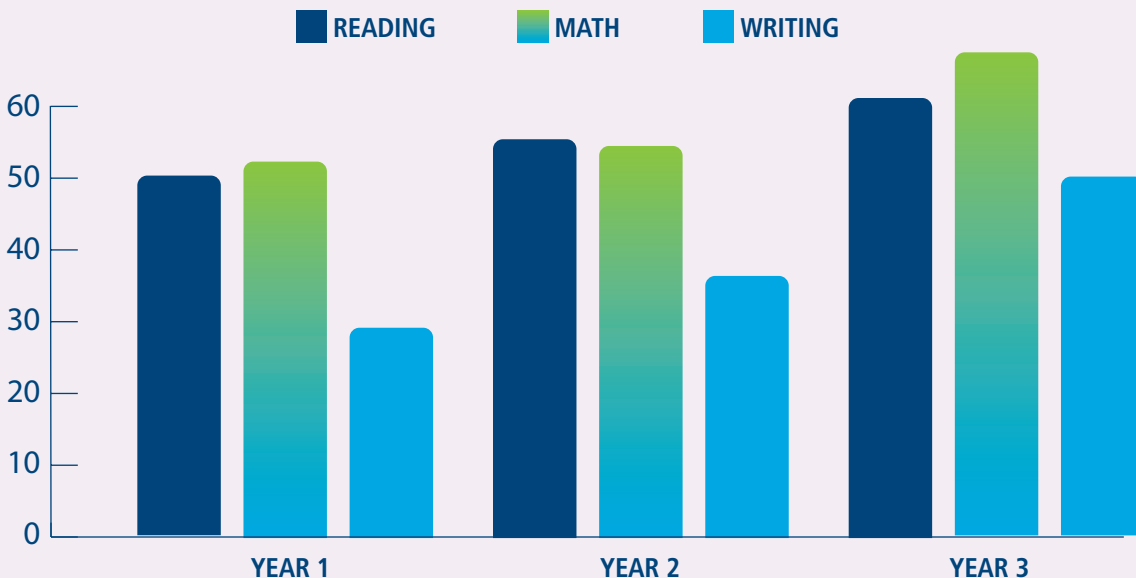
As a result of the culture shift Accelerated Learning ushered in, Huntsville has retained 98% of staff, and solid systems are in place. They continue to tighten up current practices and work with the guiding coalition to become more learning focused rather than task focused.

A great deal of work centers on intervention across all grade levels while at the same time maintaining staff and student safety protocols during these challenging times. All grade levels continue to track data, paying close attention to deficits that have been caused by constant educational disruptions from COVID-19.

State achievement data has shown an 11% increase in reading, a 15% increase in mathematics (earning two distinctions for growth from the Texas Education Agency), and a 21% increase in writing.

“We are quite pleased that we have now established vertical teams that are planning across all grade levels and setting baselines for required skills,” says principal Christy Cross.”

HUNTSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 3 YEAR DATA REPORTS (STAAR)



Start your success story



You have a vision for change and improvement in your school or district. You want to see results in the classroom for the lifelong betterment of your students.

At Solution Tree, we share your vision to transform education to ensure learning for all, and we can help you make this vision a reality.

OUR PROMISE: No other professional learning company provides our unique blend of research-based, results-driven services that improve learning outcomes for students.



Start your school's professional learning journey by visiting [SolutionTree.com/PD](https://www.solutiontree.com/PD), calling **800.733.6786**, or scanning the QR code.



LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER



Solution Tree

Please note that all Evidence of Excellence stories, data, and personnel reflect the specific period of Solution Tree's active partnership with the school or district. Staffing and leadership roles may have changed since publication.