



PLC AT WORK™

EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS

Stults Road Elementary School DALLAS, TEXAS

The Texas Commissioner of Education named Stults Road one of two schools in the state to receive the 2010 National Title I Distinguished Award.



DEMOGRAPHICS



- 744 Students
- 78% Free and reduced lunch
- 47% Limited English proficient
- 12% Special education
- 40% African American
- 47% Hispanic
- 4% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 4% Other

Stults Road Elementary School is part of Richardson Independent School District.

CHALLENGE

In 2005, then-Principal Darwin Spiller saw the need for a major cultural shift at Stults Road Elementary School. He realized that to make necessary gains and close achievement gaps, teachers could no longer work in isolation and that results-oriented, data-driven instruction had to be a priority to ensure struggling students had every opportunity to learn at high levels. The intent of the PLC movement is to empower all teachers, and one nonnegotiable from day one for Stults Road was a shared responsibility for student success.

“In 2010, I was able to attend a Solution Tree conference as part of the instructional leadership team. The insight I acquired there was priceless, and I continue to use Solution Tree resources and models to inform my everyday practice.”

—Instructional Facilitator Kylee Wall

IMPLEMENTATION

A schoolwide systematic approach addresses the needs of struggling students, and the pyramid of interventions model utilizes teachers, counselors, and building- and district-level support personnel. In order to provide teams with the time needed to collaborate about the critical questions of learning, job-embedded collaboration time is built into the master schedule.

Using data to drive the focus of instructional planning, teachers and support staff at Stults Road have been able to collaborate and close achievement gaps across all student groups. Through clear instructional expectations, shared leadership, and support for each other throughout

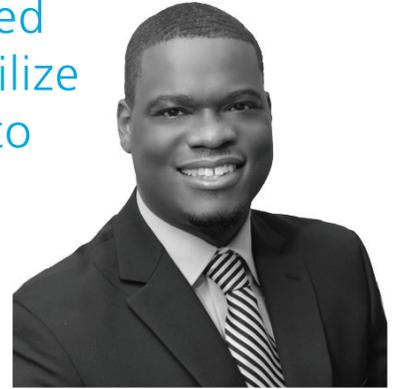
the process, the school has achieved continuous focus on student success.

There is also a focus on professional learning. *“The PLC approach is grounded in adult learning theory and evidences several characteristics important to adult learners,”* says Executive Director of Elementary Education Spiller, former principal. *“Professional educators need to be involved in the planning and evaluation of their instruction, and they often reject prescriptions by others for their learning. Like learners of all ages, adults need to see the results of their efforts and to get feedback about progress toward their goals.”*



“The support and resources provided by Solution Tree were extremely instrumental as we embarked on the PLC movement. I will continue to utilize their resources and network opportunities to improve in my craft as an educator.”

—Executive Director of Elementary Education Darwin Spiller

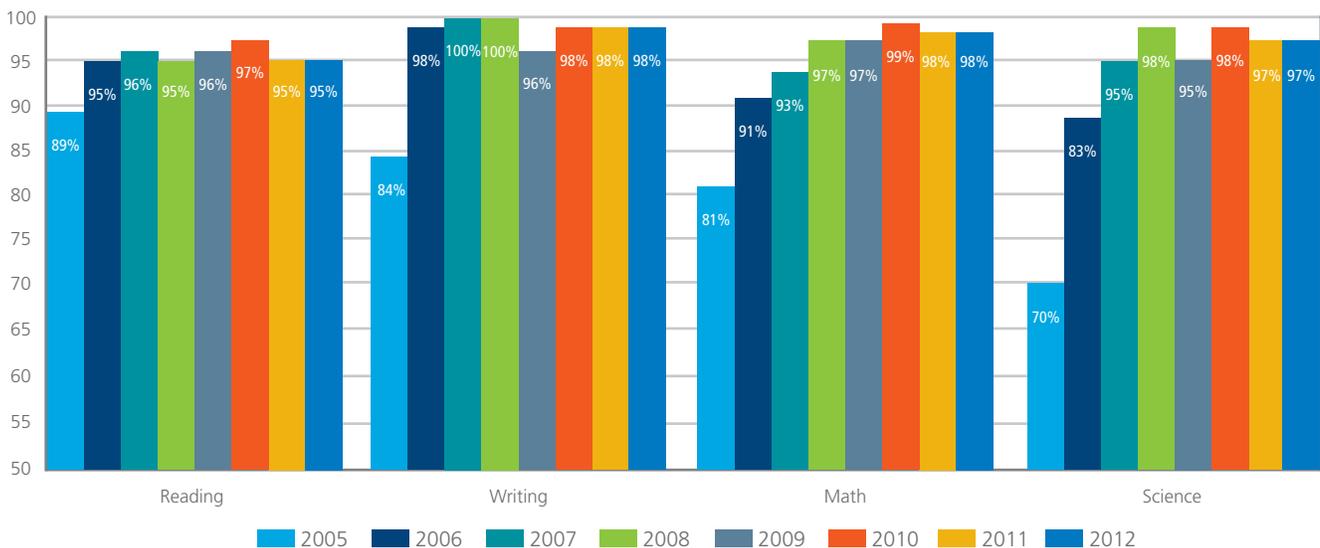


RESULTS

Since Stults Road Elementary transformed into a PLC, the passing rates in reading have remained in the 95 percentile or above. The passing rates in writing have remained in the 96 percentile or above, and in the 2007–08 school year, 100 percent of the students passed. The passing rates in mathematics remained in the 91 percentile or above. The passing rates in science remained in the 95 percentile or above starting in 2007. In 2010, reading, math, writing, and science scores were in the 97 percentile or above.

The Texas Commissioner of Education named Stults Road one of two schools in the state to receive the 2010 National Title I Distinguished Award. This is the highest level of recognition available to a Title I school in the United States and is reflective of superior levels of student achievement coupled with innovative programs and practices. Stults Road has been an exemplary rated school under the state accountability system for three consecutive years.

Stults Road TAKS Continuous Improvement



Reach new heights of student learning

You're dedicated to helping your students succeed. At Solution Tree, our experts are committed to equipping you with solutions that directly impact student achievement. We invite you to explore the best of content-rich, research-based professional development and discover just how rewarding the journey can be.

Here are just a few ways we can work together:

Customized Workshops

Bring an expert to your school! Plan a dynamic one-day session or a series of trainings. Just tell us your goals, and we'll customize an experience for you and your team.

Standard Workshops

Ever attended one of our workshops and wished you could bring it back to the rest of your team? Now you can! Let our experts come to you.

Keynotes

Bring a keynote speaker into your school, and inspire your team to take the next steps on your professional learning journey! Keynotes typically include a slide presentation and a general question-and-answer segment.

Interactive Web and Video Conferencing

Get top-notch PD from the comfort of your office or classroom! Discover personalized, research-based support from our experts on more than 100 topics, including Common Core, RTI, and 21st century skills.

Long-Term Sustainable Plans

Let us put you on the path to long-term success. We'll partner with you to develop a comprehensive and sustainable professional development plan based on your most critical challenges.

Hybrid Events

Experience a PLC at Work™ Institute from the comfort of your own school! Live streaming video will deliver dynamic and engaging keynotes, breakouts, and panel discussions to your entire team.

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