



Stults Road Elementary School

DALLAS, TEXAS

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Solution Tree

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DEMOGRAPHICS

- › **744** Students
- › **78%** Free and reduced lunch
- › **47%** English learners
- › **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.





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. Like many educators, you may be doing more with less, and you are always looking for ways to improve.

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 journey at SolutionTree.com/Priority-Schools-in-a-PLC-at-Work or call 800.733.6786 ext. 440