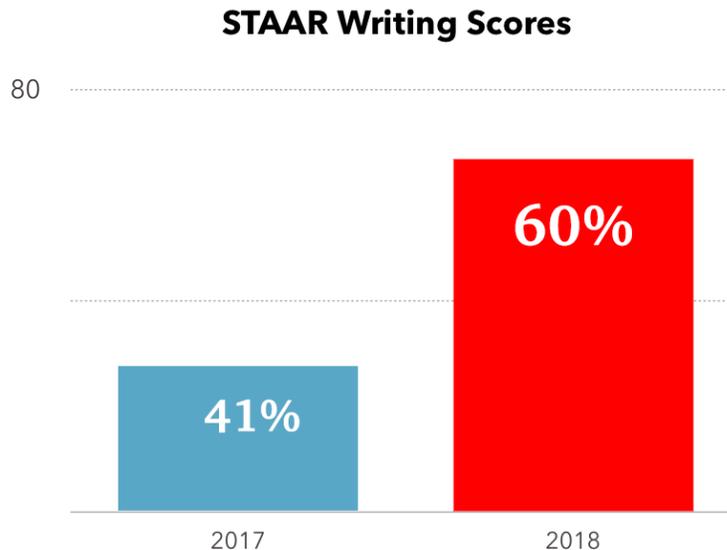


# Taylor Intermediate School Improves **19%**



*We saw tremendous growth in our writing scores on my campus, but more importantly we saw great individual growth for our students.*

***Keith Thompson***  
***Principal, Taylor Intermediate School***

## **Q&A with Keith Thompson, Taylor Intermediate School Principal**

### **What was the reason(s) the district was looking for a writing solution/program?**

Our district was looking for a writing solution due to the decline in writing abilities and testing scores across the district. Our district has several transitions from one campus to the next and there was a need for a consistent and uniform approach to writing.

### **What was the reason(s) Empowering Writers was chosen?**

Our campus decided to use Empowering Writers after we attended our first expository training. Our eyes were opened to a new way of teaching writing through skills. We loved the idea that writing is not formulaic and that our students could develop their writing through some simple strategies that were taught.

**What is the impact Empowering Writers approach to writing has on the teachers? Students?**

After attending the trainings, our teachers felt confident in their ability to teach the writing skills with the resources and ideas the Empowering Writers provided. Our teachers were relieved that we were not following a formula for writing and that they would be able to take what they had learned from Empowering Writers and include that into their instruction. Our students felt less pressure with their writing because they were taught to use simple skills and questions (what does it look like? why is it important?) to generate authentic writing.

**What are some of the aspects of EW's methodology or strategies or lessons that have made a noticeable difference?**

Using Empowering Writers has given us a common language to use when it comes to writing instruction. Being the principal on campus, I can walk into any of our classrooms and ask simple yet purposeful questions that help students develop their writing. The mini lessons that come along with Empowering Writers have allowed us to focus on specific skills that need to be taught.

**Have you seen an impact on reading comprehension?**

With this last year being our first year using Empowering Writers (less than that since we started training in November) it is hard to tell if there is a correlation between our writing instruction and our reading comprehension. We did see a 9% increase in our reading scores in fourth grade this year.

**What would you say to another administrator who has the same challenges your district has faced?**

I would tell a fellow administrator that using Empowering Writers had yielded a great return on investment. We saw tremendous growth in our writing scores on my campus, but more importantly we saw great individual growth for our students. Our teachers feel supported and have a common language that they can use during their team planning meetings. We have seen an increase in collaboration and excitement about teaching writing.