

# Results of Implementation

## Title One Schools Score Big A Study of 64 Title One Schools in Two Districts

How did Title One schools in Houston ISD achieve double-digit improvement in writing scores?

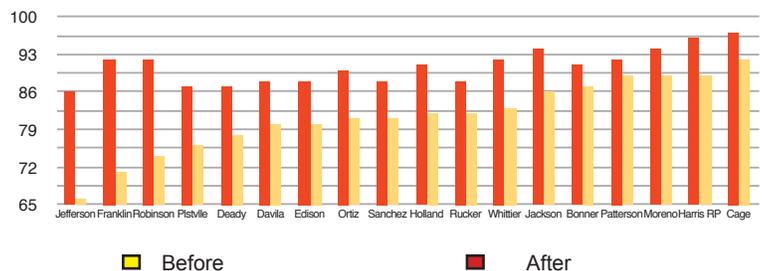
What was it that allowed South Carolina's Richland 1 School District to see similar results within their Title One schools?

Both of these districts enlisted Empowering Writers, K-8 provider of Professional Development for the instruction of writing, to work with their schools. (see tables below) What the numbers alone do not reveal is the increase in teacher engagement and student confidence that contribute to building a successful community of writers.

### Overall Performance by Districts

#### Houston Independent School District:

Results - Lowest performing schools raised writing scores on state test an average of **11.3%**

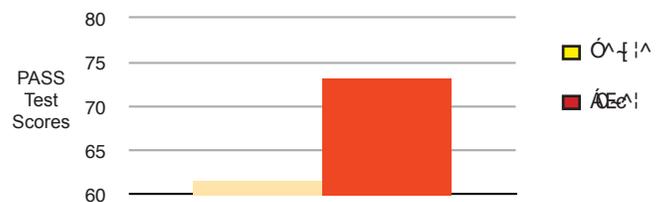


#### Richland One School District:

##### Result #1

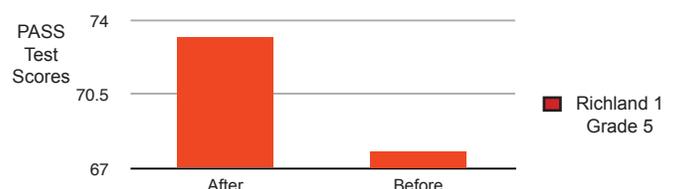
Grade 5 students **improved 18.8%** over their 4th grade state test scores

*(Compared to 2010 when Grade 5 students improved 1% over their 4th grade state test scores)*



##### Result #2

5th graders scored **8.6% higher** on 2011 state test than 5th graders on 2010 state test.



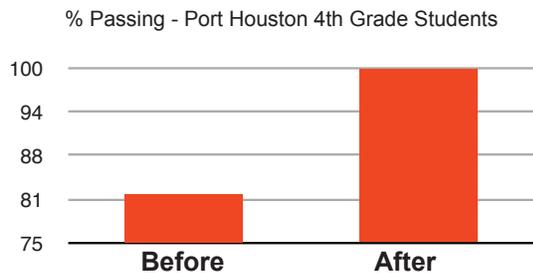
Title One Case Study Continued

# Results of Implementation

## Background

### Houston ISD

Port Houston ES trained teachers in Empowering Writers narrative writing. This elementary school was the first HISD school to fully implement Empowering Writers approach to writing instruction. Teachers and specialists at the school applied the methodology and strategies and followed EW's scope and sequence.



Population of the schools consists of 99% minority students.  
Empowering Writers approach needed to complement HISD existing writing program "6+1 Traits of Writing"

Grades 2nd through 4th attended Empowering Writers Narrative Writing Workshop.

100% passing on TAKS (up from 82%)

Increased Commended Performance by 52.9% over the previous year.

Recognized as a Texas Exemplary School.

*"We couldn't be more proud. We owe a huge part of our success to Empowering Writers. I know we couldn't have done it without their help."*

Reid Whittaker  
Principal, Port Houston ES

**Based on the success of Port Houston ES, the East Region of HISD implemented Empowering Writers approach to writing instruction for all their teachers in the elementary and middle schools**

### HISD's East Region's Implementation

After meeting with the East Region's administration, Empowering Writers designed a comprehensive professional development plan for the upcoming school year. This plan provided professional development for teachers and specialists, follow up coaching for designated schools, implementation strategies, and support for principals and administration.

#### Professional Development

##### Workshops

850 plus teachers and specialists attended one of Empowering Writers genre based workshops in August. Kindergarten and 1st grade teachers attended the K-1 workshop. 2nd through 5th grade attended the narrative workshop. 6th through 8th grade attended the expository workshop.

##### Coaching

All teachers and specialist were provided monthly bulletins by grade level. These bulletins outlined the scope of instruction for the month. 11 schools elected follow-up work with EW trainers through out the school year. This coaching included in-school visits for modeling lessons and working with teachers. Teachers were able to receive one-to-one mentoring.

##### Principals

East Region principals received a 90 minute workshop on how to monitor and support implementation in their schools. Each principal received a implementation guide containing simple strategies to ensure proper instruction is taking place.

##### Monitoring Progress

Each grade level from every school was required to submit student samples to EW's training team at a designated time during the year. By looking at student work, EW assessed the quality of writing instruction at each school and provided explicit instruction for improvement.

*Title One Case Study Continued*

# Results of Implementation

## Richland One Public Schools

*“Because of Empowering Writers training and coaching, our teachers have the skills and strategies to be successful with writing instruction. We are thrilled to see our students’ writing and have achieved increased test results.”*

Rebecca Clark  
Elementary ELA Consultant

## Richland One School District’s Implementation

In 2009-2010 school year, Richland One School District made writing instruction a top priority. The curriculum department chose Empowering Writers approach to writing instruction to meet the goal of improving student writing across the district. Teachers from the 29 elementary schools began attending Empowering Writers workshops and implementing the methodology in January 2010.

### Professional Development

#### Workshops

Teachers and specialists from all 29 Richland One elementary schools attended two of Empowering Writers narrative, expository, or kindergarten-1st grade workshops throughout the school year. These workshops provided the attendees with an understanding of the proven methodology and lessons for improving their writing instruction.

#### Coaching

EW provided monthly bulletins for each grade level which outlined the scope of instruction for the month. The administration designated schools for follow-up work with EW trainers. This coaching included in-school visits throughout the year for modeling lessons and working with teachers. Teachers were able to receive one-to-one mentoring.

#### Principals

Richland principals received a 90 minute workshop on how to monitor and support implementation in their schools. Each principal received a implementation guide containing simple strategies to ensure proper instruction is taking place.

#### Monitoring Progress

Each grade level from every school were required to submit student samples to EW’s training team at a designated time during the year. By looking at student work, EW assessed the quality of writing instruction at each school and provided explicit instruction for improvement.

***Since the initial implementation over 3,000 Houston ISD educators have implemented Empowering Writers approach to writing instruction in over 120 schools. HISD teachers, coaches, and administrators work closely with Empowering Writers training staff to continually improve teacher practice and student writing.***

***All 29 elementary schools and 9 secondary schools continue to attend workshops and implemented the methodology, strategies, and lessons of Empowering Writers approach to writing instruction.***

# Improving Student Writing in Your School or District

*“Empowering Writers has been the catalyst for a phenomenal change in our teachers. Teachers who were once reluctant to teach writing are now enthusiastic and excited in sharing what they know about the writing process. When teachers are excited – students are excited, and our kids are turned on to writing.*

*Isn't that simply fantastic?”*

- Dave Foster, Language Arts Coordinator  
Richland Two School District

## Empowering Writers Approach to Successful Implementation

Achieving success in district wide implementation of a curriculum requires more than just research based classroom instruction and resources that cover required state standards. It requires experience and proven strategies to navigate the “real-world” challenges that school districts face. Empowering Writers understands these challenges and has developed proven implementation strategies for improving student writing and test scores across the district.

These implementation strategies include:

*Designing a Professional Development Strategy that Works for the District*

*Creating Accountability for Teachers*

*Providing Implementation Support for Principals*

*Working with the District Administration to Monitor Progress*

## Implementation

Empowering Writers will work with the district administration to design a comprehensive professional development plan. This comprehensive plan encompasses professional development for teachers and specialists, follow up coaching for designated schools, and implementation strategies and support for principals and administration.

### Workshops



Empowering Writers offer genre based workshops for kindergarten-1st, narrative, expository, and persuasive grade writing. These workshops provide the attendees with an understanding of the proven methodology and lessons for improving their writing instruction.

### Principals



Empowering Writers provides principals with a 90 minute workshop on how to monitor and support implementation in their schools. Each principal receives an implementation guide containing simple strategies to ensure proper instruction is taking place.

### Coaching and Support



EW offers a comprehensive service of providing support to teachers through in-school coaching visits, on-line coaching webinars, comprehensive video support, and monthly bulletins to qualifying schools and districts.

### Monitoring Progress



Timely check points that gauge the quality of writing instruction taking place in the classrooms are established. By meeting regularly with teachers and specialists and looking at student work, the EW training team can monitor and assess the quality of writing instruction at each school and provided explicit instruction for improvement. This approach enables the administration and EW to address problem areas immediately and keep proper implementation on track.