

# Bill Hefner Elementary School

CUMBERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

## SCHOOL PROFILE

**880 STUDENTS, GRADES PRE-K-5**  
25.9% Free/Reduced Lunch  
8.1% Identified Exceptional Students  
42.8% White  
5.3% Hispanic  
1.6% Asian-American  
5.3% African-American

## LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW™ IMPLEMENTATION

- Classroom Lab Implementation
- Implementation began in November 2002
- Grades 3-5
- Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics Focus

## RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

Lightspan Progress Test  
North Carolina End-of-Grade Test

## RESEARCH TIME FRAME

2002-03 School Year

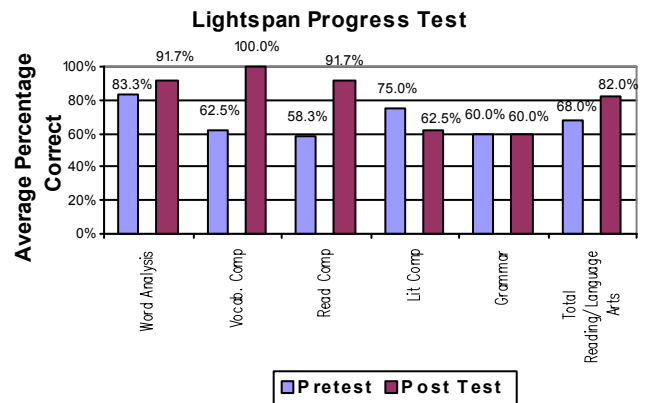
### FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS SHOW INCREASES IN READING AND MATHEMATICS

DURING THE 2002-03 SCHOOL YEAR, INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS AT BILL HEFNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DEMONSTRATED GAINS IN BOTH READING AND MATHEMATICS. A COMPARISON OF THE 2002 AND 2003 SCORES ON THE NORTH CAROLINA END-OF-GRADE TEST REVEALED GAINS IN BOTH TOTAL READING AND MATHEMATICS. IN ADDITION, INCREASED SCORES ARE ALSO REFLECTED IN READING THROUGH THE USE OF THE LIGHTSPAN PROGRESS TESTS.

BILL HEFNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACQUIRED LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW™ WITH LOCAL MONIES. THE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION CONSISTED OF A CLASSROOM LAB WHERE STUDENTS RECEIVED CURRICULUM REINFORCEMENT THREE DAYS PER WEEK FOR FORTY MINUTES. THIRD, FOURTH, AND FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS WERE ASSESSED USING THE 2002 AND 2003 NORTH CAROLINA END-OF-GRADE STATE TESTS TO MEASURE ACADEMIC GROWTH AND PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS.

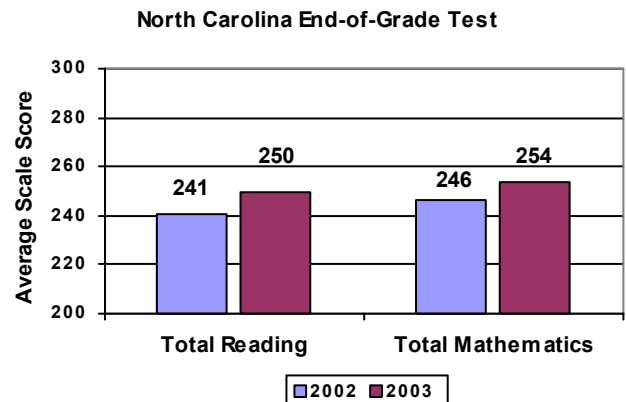
## Fourth-graders show Strong gains in Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension

Fourth-grade students using Lightspan Achieve Now™ curriculum realized an increase of 8.3% in Phonics and Decoding, 37.5% in Vocabulary Comprehension, and 33.3% in Reading Comprehension. A 14% overall increase was noted in Total Reading/Language Arts when pre- and post-test averages were compared.



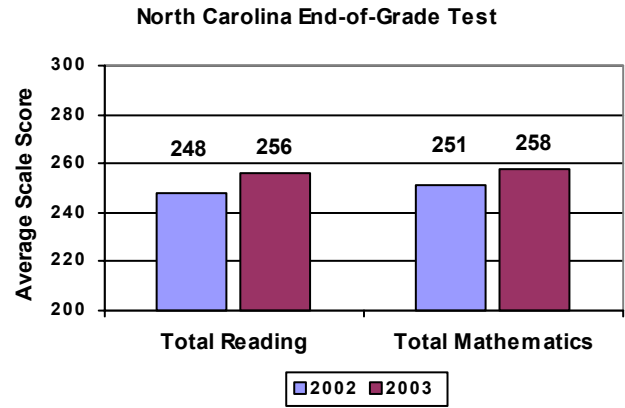
## Fourth grade students display moderate gains in Reading and Mathematics

Fourth-grade students using Lightspan Achieve Now™ curriculum realized an increase of 9 scale score points or a 17% gain in Total Reading and 8 scale score points or 12.5% in Total Mathematics, when 2002 and 2003 scale scores were calculated and compared from the North Carolina End-of-Grade tests.



## End-of-Grade increase posted by fifth-grade students in Reading and Mathematics

Fifth-grade students using Lightspan Achieve Now™ curriculum realized an increase of 8 scale score points or a 16% in Total Reading and 7 scale score points 9% gain in Total Mathematics, when 2002 and 2003 scale scores were calculated and compared from the North Carolina End-of-Grade tests.



### Cumberland County School District Program Background

Cumberland County School District is located in the central region of North Carolina. It is comprised of 53 elementary schools, 18 middle schools, and 10 high schools serving approximately 51,000 students from several ethnic backgrounds: American Indian, Asian, Hispanic, African-American, Caucasian, and others.

In September 2002, Cumberland County School District, with the use of local funds, expanded its current Lightspan Achieve Now™ implementation to include all elementary and middle schools. Schools initiated their implementation on an individual basis. Independent school sites targeted 50 students and personalized their implementation to meet grade level and student achievement needs by targeting 50 students.

The implementation began during the September 2002. Throughout the school year, principals at participating schools attended planning meetings to develop school goals, evaluation plans, and professional development activities for the Lightspan Achieve Now™ implementation. Site support and opportunities for professional development were made available to individual school personnel. A key to these sessions was the alignment of the Lightspan curriculum to North Carolina State Standards.

## Bill Hefner Elementary Program Background

Bill Hefner Elementary School is a community school located in the Montibello housing area and is one of the Cumberland County schools using Lightspan Achieve Now. The enrollment includes a diverse population with approximately 86% military or federally employed parents. Hefner has high academic expectations and has been recognized as a 2000-2001 North Carolina School of Excellence, a North Carolina School of Distinction from 1996-2000, and a North Carolina Exemplary School from 1997-1999. It serves almost 880 students in Pre-Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Implementation of the Lightspan Achieve Now™ standards-based curriculum program at Bill Hefner Elementary School began in November, 2002. This implementation was funded by local monies. The program was designed to enhance interactive learning opportunities to students through the use of motivating curriculum software aligned to the North Carolina Standards and the North Carolina End of Grade Test.

During the 2002-03 school year, teachers at Bill Hefner Elementary School attended professional development sessions to help them align Lightspan Achieve Now™ to the North Carolina State Standards. During the sessions, teachers identified Lightspan activities and materials that correlated to student needs identified by the End-of-Grade results. Third, fourth, and fifth grade students utilized Lightspan Achieve Now™ for Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics setting three days a week, forty minutes per session.

Results were measured throughout the course of the implementation by multiple assessments such as interim progress checks, district benchmarks, teacher records, student portfolios, and the North Carolina End-of-Grade Test.



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