

<h1>Kermit Junior High School</h1> <p>KERMIT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT KERMIT, TEXAS</p>	<p>SCHOOL PROFILE</p> <p><b>300 STUDENTS, GRADES 6-8</b>  50.5% Free/Reduced Lunch  40.9% White  41.7% Hispanic  2.8% Asian-American  14.4% African-American  .3% Native-American</p>
	<p>LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW™ IMPLEMENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classroom/Family Homework Model</li> <li>Grades 6–7, Began August 2002</li> <li>Reading/Vocabulary Comprehension/Mathematics Focus</li> <li>Comprehensive School Reform</li> </ul>
	<p>RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>Lightspan eduTest Assessment</p>
	<p>RESEARCH TIME FRAME</p> <p>2002–03 School Year</p>
<p><b>SIXTH- AND SEVENTH-GRADE STUDENTS REVEAL GROWTH IN READING/LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS</b></p> <p>DURING THE 2002–03 SCHOOL YEAR, SIXTH- AND SEVENTH-GRADE STUDENTS AT KERMIT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL DEMONSTRATED GAINS IN READING/LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS. COMPARISON OF PRETEST AND POST-TEST RESULTS FROM LIGHTSPAN EDUTEST ASSESSMENT™ NATIONAL PROGRESS TEST TOTAL PERCENTAGE CORRECT SCORES REVEALED GAINS OF 3% AND 25% IN TOTAL READING/LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS, RESPECTIVELY.</p> <p>KERMIT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVED A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL REFORM (CSR) PROGRAM GRANT AND CHOSE TO IMPLEMENT LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW™ AND THE LIGHTSPAN NETWORK® AS PART OF THEIR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN. SIXTH- AND SEVENTH-GRADE STUDENTS AT KERMIT JUNIOR HIGH USED LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW IN THE CLASSROOM, COMPUTER LAB, AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR. STUDENTS WERE ASSESSED USING LIGHTSPAN EDUTEST ASSESSMENT NATIONAL BENCHMARK PROGRESS TESTS PRIOR TO AND FOLLOWING COMMENCEMENT OF THE LIGHTSPAN ACHIEVE NOW IMPLEMENTATION TO MEASURE STUDENT ACADEMIC GROWTH. COMPARISON OF BENCHMARK PROGRESS PRE- AND POST-TEST RESULTS REVEALED AVERAGE OVERALL GAINS OF 3% AND 25% IN READING/LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS, RESPECTIVELY, FOR SIXTH-GRADE STUDENTS.</p>	

## SCHOOL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

**Standards:** Kermit Junior High School was awarded Comprehensive School Reform Grant (CSR) funding and chose the Lightspan Achieve Now skill-and-content model to support its reform efforts. The school’s philosophy is to provide the highest quality education for students regardless of race, socioeconomic background, or creed. Kermit Junior High pledges to meet the needs of all students by providing appropriate instruction to match students’ intellectual abilities in order to encourage them to fulfill their potential and be productive members of society.

**Curriculum and Instruction:** The three main components of the Kermit Junior High Comprehensive School Reform Program implementation are as follows.

- 1) The Lightspan Network™ is utilized in the computer lab by sixth- and seventh-grade students and is a major component of the Kermit Junior High implementation. Lightspan® learning activities are utilized with standards-based content, assessment, professional development, and instructional tools. Students attend the Lightspan computer lab once weekly for approximately 45 to 50 minutes per session.
- 2) Lightspan Achieve Now™ used in the after-school program for sixth- and seventh-grade students was designed to target students with special needs based on results from Texas Academic Assessment of Skills (TAAS) test scores. TAAS scores determined eligibility for the program.
- 3) Two Lightspan Achieve Now labs were designed for use by sixth- and seventh-grade students. One lab is designed to assist students with language arts and reading; and, one lab is designed for assisting students in mathematics. Students attend the Lightspan Achieve Now lab on an as-needed basis as determined by their classroom teacher. Students work in the lab for approximately 45 minutes per session. Lightspan activities are used for supplemental lessons as well as to reinforce targeted objectives. Introductions to each activity are given to students prior to admittance into the lab.

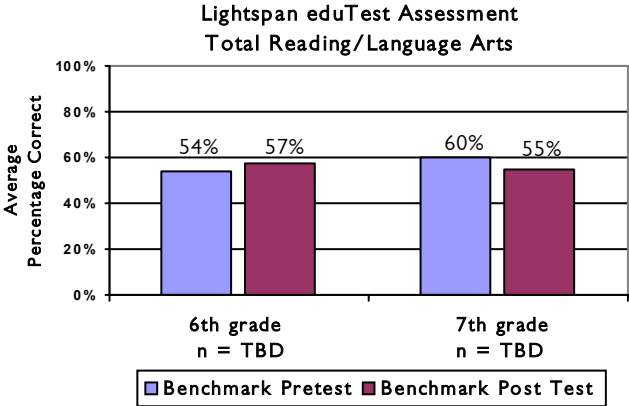
**Assessment/Evaluation:** Lightspan eduTest Assessment was utilized to assess and monitor student progress throughout the school year. This self-assessment instrument was administered at designated intervals during the implementation to guide Kermit Junior High during the evaluation process and to define next steps.

**Professional Development:** In professional development sessions, the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) were aligned to Lightspan curriculum. Teachers identified and selected Lightspan activities and materials related to their instructional objectives.

**Family Involvement:** Home instructional plans increased and enhanced active family participation in their child's learning. Lightspan Achieve Now gave families meaningful choices and proven strategies for supporting student success. Families were continuously informed about evidences of student learning and assessment practices. A comprehensive needs-assessment will be conducted for families. Written communications between families and the school will provide specific information and feedback concerning identified needs. Classroom content in the technology center will be designed around these families' needs and enhance program effectiveness. Coordination with district technology will be included.

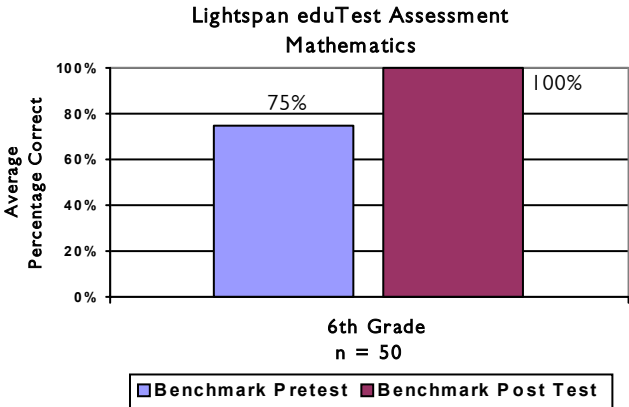
### Gains posted by sixth-grade students in Reading/Language Arts

Kermit Junior High sixth-grade students using Lightspan Achieve Now curriculum realized an increase of 3% in Total Reading/Language Arts. Comparison of Lightspan eduTest Assessment benchmark total percentage correct scores revealed that, on average, students moved from a pretest score of 54% correct to a post-test score of 57% correct.



### Sixth-grade students advance by 25% in Number and Number Sense/Fractions, Decimal & Percent Equivalency

Mathematics performance improved for sixth-grade students after using Lightspan Achieve Now. Students scored an average of 75% correct on the Lightspan eduTest Assessment benchmark pretest and increased to an average of 100% correct on the post test, for an average overall gain of 25%.



## Kermit Junior High School Program Background

Kermit Junior High School located in Kermit, Texas, just 44 miles west of Odessa is among the sites using Lightspan Achieve Now. Kermit is the only Texas town to be named after one of Theodore Roosevelt's sons. Kermit Junior High serves 300 students in grades 6–8. It is the mission of Kermit Independent School District to provide the highest quality education for students of this district regardless of race, socioeconomic background or creed. Kermit Junior High School pledges to meet the needs of all students by providing appropriate instruction to match students' intellectual abilities in order to encourage them to fulfill their potential and be productive members of society.

Implementation of the Lightspan Achieve Now standards-based curriculum program in Kermit Junior High School began in September 2001, funded by a Comprehensive School Reform Grant. Acceptance of this funding required Kermit Junior High School to fully integrate nine widely-accepted components of whole-school reform. These included: (1) effective research-based model, method, or strategy; (2) comprehensive program with aligned components; (3) high-quality continuous professional development; (4) goals with benchmarks for school improvement; (5) support within the school; (6) family/community involvement; (7) high-quality external technical support; (8) an evaluation plan; and (9) coordination and leverage of resources linking to reform goals.

The project grant was designed to enhance interactive learning opportunities for students and families through the use of motivating curriculum software aligned to the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). For Kermit Junior High School, the grant allowed sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade classrooms to utilize the Lightspan program as a teaching and learning tool.

During the 2002–03 school year, sixth- and seventh-grade teachers at Kermit Junior High School attended professional development sessions to align Lightspan eduTest Assessment to the Lightspan Achieve Now curriculum. Teachers were able to identify and select Lightspan activities and materials appropriate to their teaching objectives. Throughout the school year, teachers used Lightspan curriculum for direct instruction and individualized learning improvements. Sixth- and seventh-grade students worked with Lightspan Achieve Now labs and The Lightspan Network in reading, language arts, and mathematics at school and in homes, thereby improving student achievement and enhancing meaningful family involvement in student learning.

Family involvement workshops were held during the school year. Families and their children were involved in activities centered on Lightspan Adventures®, such as students demonstrating their favorite Lightspan activities. In the workshops, parents were encouraged to be actively involved in their children's education. Question-and-answer sessions gave families opportunities to communicate with teachers regarding any comments and concerns about school or Lightspan Achieve Now. Families remarked how the Lightspan program is successful in bringing the school and home closer together.

Results achieved throughout the course of the implementation were measured and monitored by multiple assessments such as Lightspan eduTest Assessment, surveys, interviews, and teacher records.

Continued use of Lightspan Achieve Now as the CSR skill-and-content reform model ensures replicable results and offers innovative research-based curriculum to further support Kermit Junior High School's reform efforts. Through Lightspan, access to technology has been made available in an equitable manner for all students. Furthermore, the Lightspan program involves families in their children's education, links families to the school, motivates student learning inside and outside the classroom, and supports the school's guiding philosophy of a balanced approach to teaching and learning.



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