

# Improving Student Performance:

## How One Elementary Achieved a 10-Point Gain on Scores



### The Goal:

#### Inspire and Nurture Learning

Like many elementary schools across the United States, Ballantyne Elementary in Charlotte, North Carolina, sought innovative ways to help its students master science concepts, and perform better on standardized tests.

Ballantyne is one of 93 elementary schools serving the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District, whose mission is to maximize academic achievement by every student in every school. Among the district's six strategic goals is the desire to inspire and nurture learning, creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship through technology and school redesign.

Looking for innovative technology resources that might support its science instruction, Ballantyne partnered with EduSmart<sup>™</sup> on a pilot project to determine if EduSmart could have a measurable impact on student learning and test performance.

#### About the School District

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools** is located in the Charlotte, North Carolina, region. It provides academic instruction to more than **146,000 students** in kindergarten through 12th grade in **170 schools** throughout the cities and towns of Mecklenburg County. The district serves a diverse mix of students representing **183 different countries** and various cultural and ethnic backgrounds. The school district is focused on preparing students to be **leaders in a technologically savvy and globally competitive world.**



## EduSmart Science Called into Action

The school launched a pilot of EduSmart Science, an interactive multimedia science resource, in two 5th grade classrooms. The teacher in the pilot classroom used the instruction module *EduSmart Science Landforms* to supplement district-provided science teaching resources. The other 5th grade classroom involved in the study acted as the control group, with its teacher using only district-provided instructional resources. Both teachers administered the same pre-and post-tests to their students. Scores of those students who did not take both tests were eliminated from the study.



## Teaching Science to the Digital Generation


EduSmart Science is a K-8 grade multimedia science resource designed to maximize student learning. How? By integrating rich, detailed animated graphics and concisely narrated text that is highly engaging. Designed to be teacher-guided yet student-centered, EduSmart builds students' conceptual knowledge using multiple "real world" examples and models. EduSmart Science puts all the tools at the teacher's fingertips including instruction modules, interactivities, simulated labs, glossaries, journaling activities, formative assessments and suggested hands-on investigations. The flexible format employing a host of learning tools, such as simulations, expository texts and glossaries, allows it to be used in whole class, small group and individual instruction.



## Measurable Return on Investment

The study found that students using the EduSmart Science curriculum in addition to other instructional models achieved significantly higher scores than students not exposed to EduSmart. Average pre-test scores for the pilot classroom jumped an impressive 18.4 points, a 10-point gain over students who had been taught the same concepts using only district-provided teaching resources.

**Ballantyne Elementary's data showed that EduSmart Science had a significant positive impact on student achievement.**

Ballantyne Elementary Pilot Data – Landforms Instructions Module			
5th Grade – Two Classrooms	Pre-test Average Score	Post-test Average Score	Points Gained
Control Group (19 Students)	1160 / 19 = 61.0	1320 / 19 = 69.4	8.4
EduSmart Pilot Group (24 Students)	1610 / 24 = 67.0	2050 / 24 = 85.4	18.4
 <b>Total Difference</b>			<b>+10 Point Gain with EduSmart</b>

## Let Us Help You Transform STEM in Your School.

EduSmart has been helping schools redefine STEM education for more than a decade. Schedule a free demo to see how we can help you engage your students and improve their performance, with teaching tools that make STEM instruction easier. **Your teachers will thank you.**