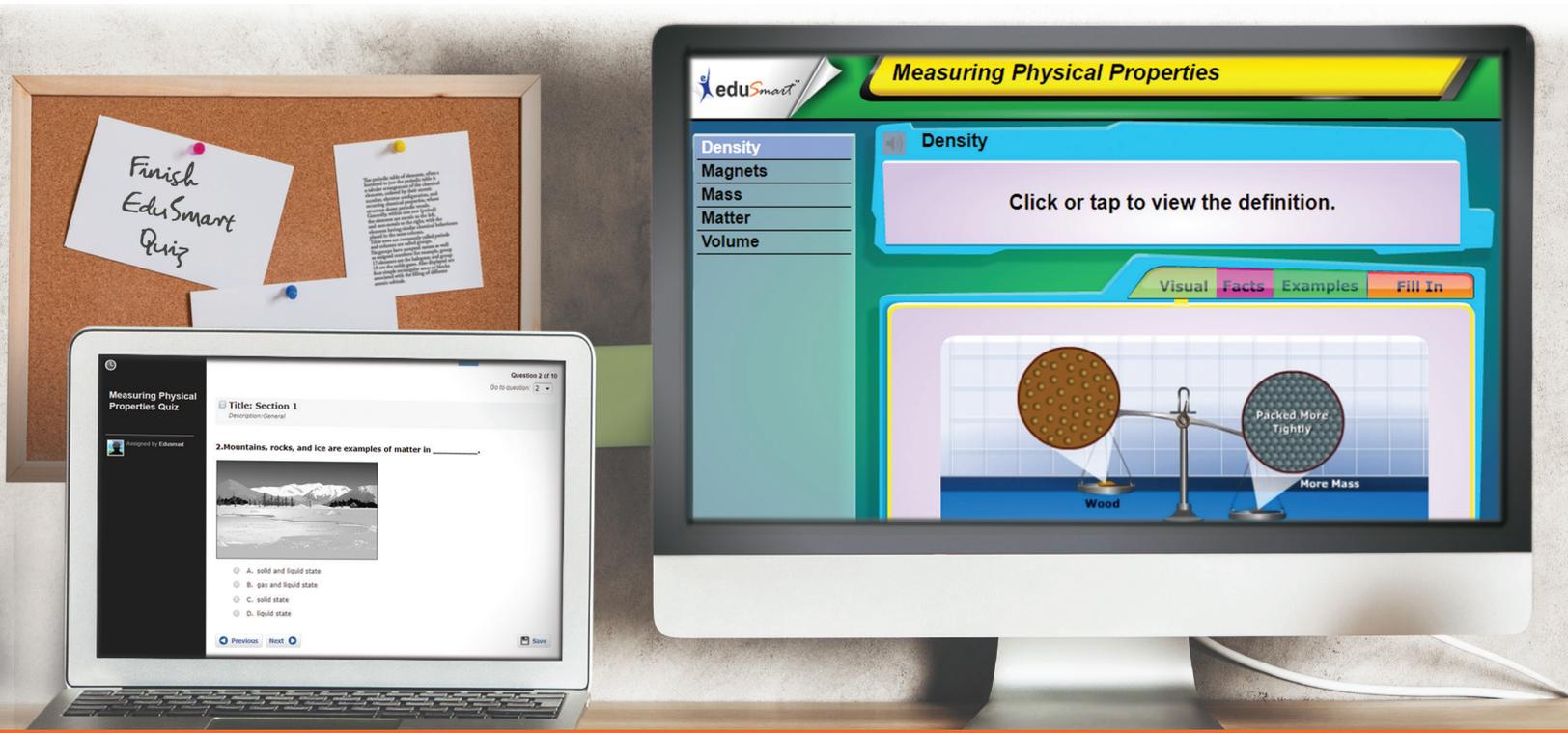


# Impacting Test Scores:

## How an Interactive Science Curriculum Helped Make the Grade



## Finding EduSmart: A Stroke of Luck

Fourth grade teacher Juli Naranjo came to Austin's Cowan Elementary 18 years ago when it first opened and has been guiding her young math, science and ESL students there ever since. Naranjo already was an experienced teacher when she signed on at Cowan, but a fortuitous conversation with EduSmart co-founder Nalini Kumar at a local school football game introduced her to a new teaching tool she wasn't then aware of: EduSmart.

"It was a stroke of luck that I found out about EduSmart's science curriculum," says Naranjo, who soon began trying out the curriculum in her classroom. When she saw her students' response to the interactive content and kid-friendly videos, she was sold.

"I had been relying on old-school methods – put some science words up on the board and then we would talk about vocabulary and try to get the students involved, but getting past the vocabulary words takes forever sometimes," she says, who struggled to find a more graphical way to introduce science vocabulary, concepts and related activities.

### About the School

Cowan Elementary School, located in far south Austin, **opened in 1999** and serves approximately **750 students** in pre-K through 5th grades, including tuition-supported pre-K for qualified families. Its mission is to nurture and inspire children to achieve their personal best every day.

"I didn't feel like I could get it all done, but what I discovered with EduSmart is that I can move through my content a lot faster and do more hands-on activities as a result," she says. "It is a lot easier than using a textbook." The curriculum is organized into modules for each fourth grade science TEKS, with each section providing videos with related vocabulary, experiments and interactivities, and quizzes to check students' comprehension on the material.

Naranjo particularly appreciates the vocabulary sections in the EduSmart curriculum. "These short two-, three- or four-minute video clips are broken into the various concepts and include examples of the vocabulary and even short experiments. And then the summary helps us really zero in on what do we want to get from this. It literally takes five minutes to cover all of that, but goes so deep in so little time."

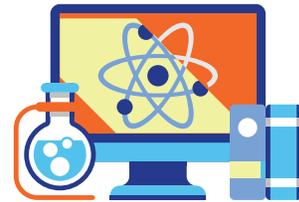
### More Engaged Students = Rising Scores

The test of any teaching tool is in the results, and better results start with engaging students. "When students can connect with the concepts, that's when I see the impact on the scores," says Naranjo, who routinely tests her students using questions taken from EduSmart's pre-packaged quizzes included in each teaching module.

With EduSmart, I can see a direct connection with what kids understand. I see that it does raise test scores.

"From these tests, I can see a direct connection with what kids understand. **On my last test, I had 80-90 percent of the students passing,**" she says. "I am seeing that it does raise test scores because they can connect and they can bridge on that vocabulary that was practiced earlier." And because the content is presented on their level, even the English language learners who comprise a smaller portion of her classrooms are grasping the content and performing well on testing.

EduSmart presents the material in ways that English language learners are grasping the content and performing well on testing.



State Average 41%

Cowan Elementary 59%

Cowan testing: well ahead of the state average.

## 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.