For Immediate Release

Fifth Graders in Texas School Districts Using STEMscopes from Accelerate Learning Achieve Higher Passing Rates on STAAR Science Test

Using the STEMscopes Texas comprehensive, hands-on science curriculum also increases the passing rates for economically disadvantaged students in these districts

Houston, TX – Nov. 19, 2015 – Accelerate Learning today announces the publication of a new study examining the 2014-15 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™) passing rates for school districts that used the STEMscopes™ curriculum. The study, which included more than 360,000 students, showed that districts using STEMscopes had higher passing rates on the fifth grade STAAR science test than districts that did not use STEMscopes. The findings are similar to earlier studies conducted by Rice University, which also reported higher fifth grade passing rates for districts with STEMscopes.

Using data retrieved from http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/staar/aggregate/ the 2015 study showed the average passing rate for Texas school districts that include fifth grade was 68.2 percent. Of these districts, 311 districts used the STEMscopes science curriculum for more than half of their student population, and 877 districts used either a district-created science curriculum or purchased a different science curriculum. The average passing rate was 71.4 percent for the STEMscopes districts, and 67.0 percent for the non-STEMscopes districts.

The improved results extend to economically disadvantaged students as well. The average passing rate for economically disadvantaged students in the STEMscopes districts was 63.0 percent, compared to 59.7 percent for the non-STEMscopes districts.

Analyses were conducted to account for demographic differences across districts and previous year achievement. The results revealed that districts that used STEMscopes had a 3.2 percent increase in the overall passing rate on the fifth grade STAAR science test, which translates to 7,470 additional students passing the STAAR science test. The impact was similar with economically disadvantaged students. Using the STEMscopes curriculum increased passing rates by 2.6 percent for economically disadvantaged students, which meant that 4,730 more students passed the STAAR science test.

STEMscopes is the most widely used science curriculum in Texas. Born in teacher professional development labs out of Rice University, STEMscopes Texas was built from the ground up to meet state standards and Next Generation Science Standards. It can be used as a core science curriculum or as a supplementary or enrichment resource in traditional, blended, and 1:1 classroom environments.

"Educators often tell us what a huge impact STEMscopes has had on their students' learning and engagement in science. So it's very rewarding to see that these positive results are translating to their performance on the STAAR science test as well. It's also gratifying to know that our curriculum is making a difference in the lives of thousands of students who may not have passed the STAAR science test without it," said Vernon Johnson, president and CEO of Accelerate Learning. "We congratulate all these teachers and students on their successes and look forward to continuing our work with schools in Texas and across the nation."

About Accelerate Learning, Inc.: Accelerate Learning, in conjunction with Rice University, is focused on becoming the most effective digital preK-12 STEM resource used by teachers, students, and parents. With over 1.5 million student users and growing, Accelerate Learning has grown from a single product, STEMscopes in 2007, to a brand that now offers a variety of curriculum and professional development solutions which support early learning, NGSS, and state-aligned curriculum. Accelerate Learning has earned recognition in *District Administration*'s Top 100 Products, SIIA Innovation Incubator, and *EdTech Digest*'s Cool Tool Awards.

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