

# Texas Gets Results With TCI

## *History Alive! The United States* Improves Grade 8 Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) Scores

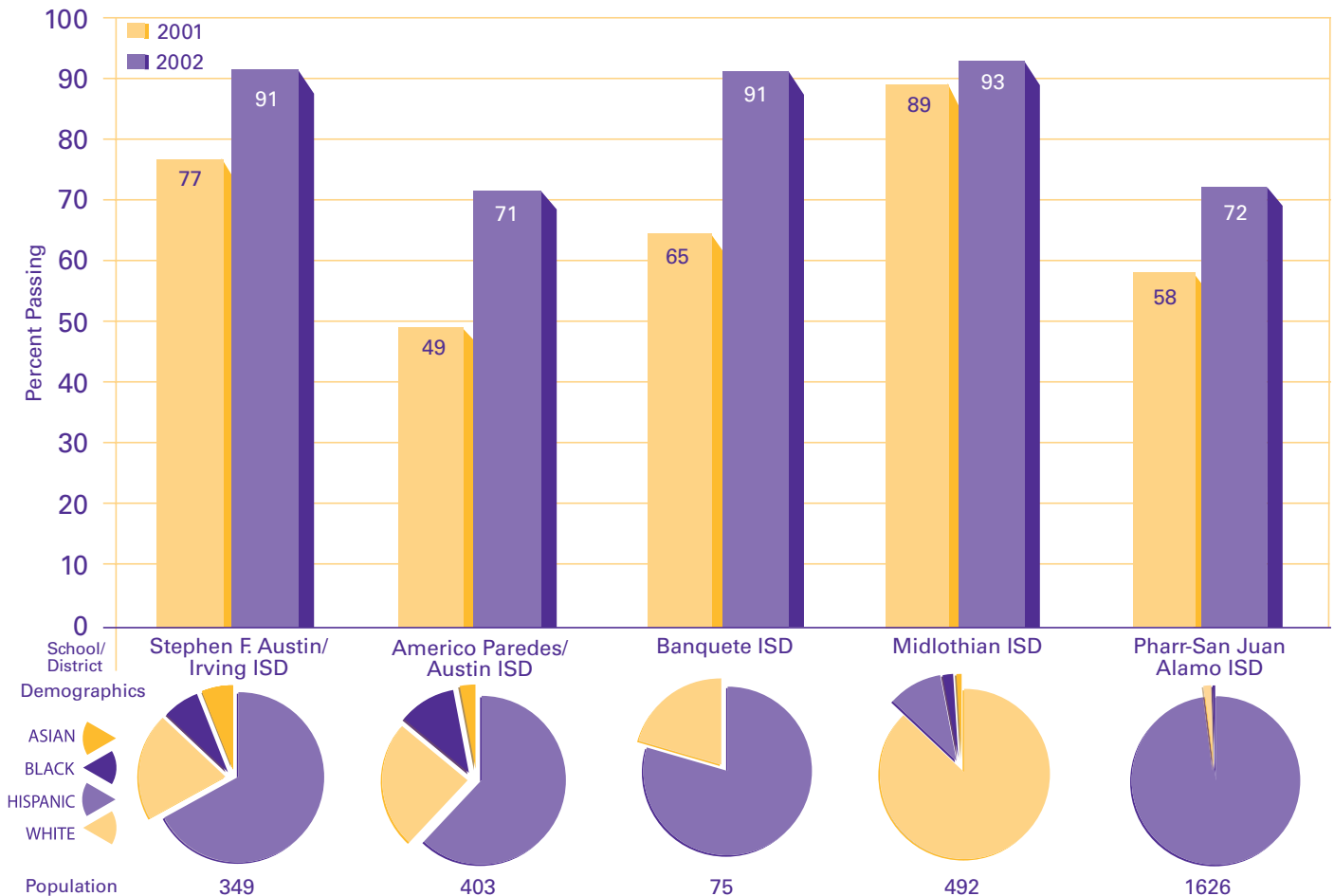
Since 1990, TCI has trained thousands of teachers throughout Texas in the *TCI Approach*. Those teachers reported **consistent positive results** on their TAAS scores after implementing *History Alive! The United States*.

To document this improvement, we asked social studies supervisors that had implemented *History Alive! The United States* in 2001/2002 to send us their TAAS scores, both before and after implementation. Two schools and three districts that trained their Grade 8 teachers prior to the fall of 2001 and purchased TCI's Grade 8 *History Alive! The United States* program in the 2001-2002 academic year sent us data.

**Every site reported gains** between 2001 and 2002, the year they fully implemented the *TCI Approach*.

- The average gain among all sites was **16 percent**.
- The location with the lowest gain score was Midlothian ISD which experienced a **4-point gain**. This was also the site with the highest pre-implementation scores (89 percent in 2001).
- The site with the largest gain scores, Banquete ISD, saw their scores **rise 26 points** from 65 percent to 91 percent.

**Social Studies Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) Results at Grade 8**



## Renewed Teacher *Enthusiasm*

In addition to collecting TAAS data, we also interviewed the social studies supervisors and key teachers at each of the five sites.

*"History Alive! The United States completely energized my teachers. The revolutionary approach to teaching encouraged them to work in concert with each other as opposed to the traditional isolation that teachers experience. In fact, because the curriculum and resources are interactive by design, I am convinced that this has manifested itself in our teachers being able to reach consensus more quickly as they plot their instructional direction for the school year."*

**Bergeron Harris, Ed.D., Principal**

Americo Paredes Middle School, Austin ISD

**22% increase in TAAS scores**

All interviewees noted a renewed enthusiasm and professionalism among their colleagues.

*"History Alive! The United States brings successful understanding along with fun into my classroom. I love what it has done for my students' achievements. Specifically, our Hispanic sub-group raised its score an incredible 30% with the use of the TCI program. That is a major WOW!"*

**T-Kay Timmerman, Social Studies Teacher**

Midlothian Middle School, Midlothian ISD

**4% increase in TAAS scores**

## Increase in Student *Engagement*

*"History Alive! The United States is such a wonderful tool because the students can actually read the text, easily use graphic organizers with the text and visuals, and 'experience' the history lessons. Instead of me having to simply 'cover' the material, the students are able to discover it for themselves. This leads to better retention of the curricular material."*

**Avis Balliet, Social Studies Teacher**

Stephen F. Austin Middle School, Irving ISD

**14% increase in TAAS scores**

### Conclusion

The teachers we interviewed for this study stated that they had entered the profession with a sense of purpose: to reach the unreachable student, to create a better future by educating the leaders of tomorrow, to prepare students for participation in a democratic society. The stressful reality of school life, however, has dimmed many teachers' initial optimism. However, the teachers in this study report that using the *TCI Approach* has renewed their sense of idealism as they have rediscovered the sense of mission and fun associated with teaching. They report that this is the way they always wanted to teach — with a sense of purpose, passion, and fun. Judging by our analysis of the TAAS data, that attitude is resulting in impressive learning gains as well.



# TCI<sup>®</sup>

Brings Learning Alive!

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