

Western Heights School District

CASE STUDY



BACKGROUND

Western Heights Public Schools is an independent school district located in Oklahoma City. Their specific objective is to support emergent bilinguals (EL) and help them reach the proficiency level required to exit the EB program successfully. However, prior to implementing Little Sponges®, they faced challenges in achieving this goal, as zero students were making progress as indicated by WIDA test scores.

In the academic year 2022-2023, 90% of students in 4 elementary schools demonstrated substantial growth (based on the WIDA test results).

GOALS



Help students score 4.8 or above on the WIDA test and exit the EB program.



Develop cultural awareness and English language proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.



Measure ongoing progress and gain actionable insights from real-time data.



Reduce teacher burden and learning curve by providing lessons and assessments that are aligned with WIDA standards.

Little Sponges® Implementation

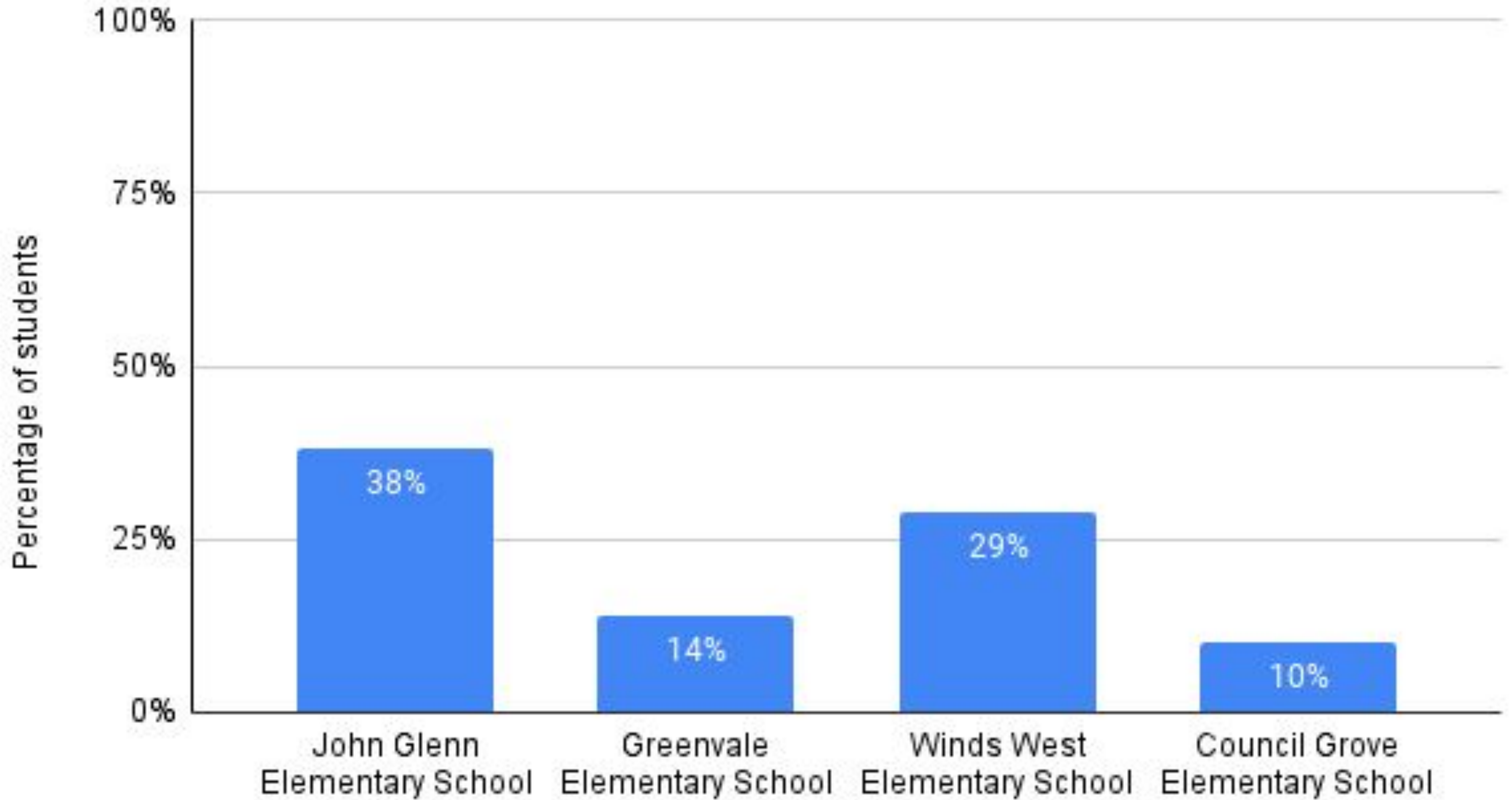
In the academic year 2022-2023, Western Heights Public Schools district decided to incorporate the Little Sponges® language learning program into their curriculum to enhance language acquisition and help English Language Learners make progress. The program was introduced in all four elementary schools: Winds West, John Glenn, Greenvale, and Council Grove.



Implementation Results:

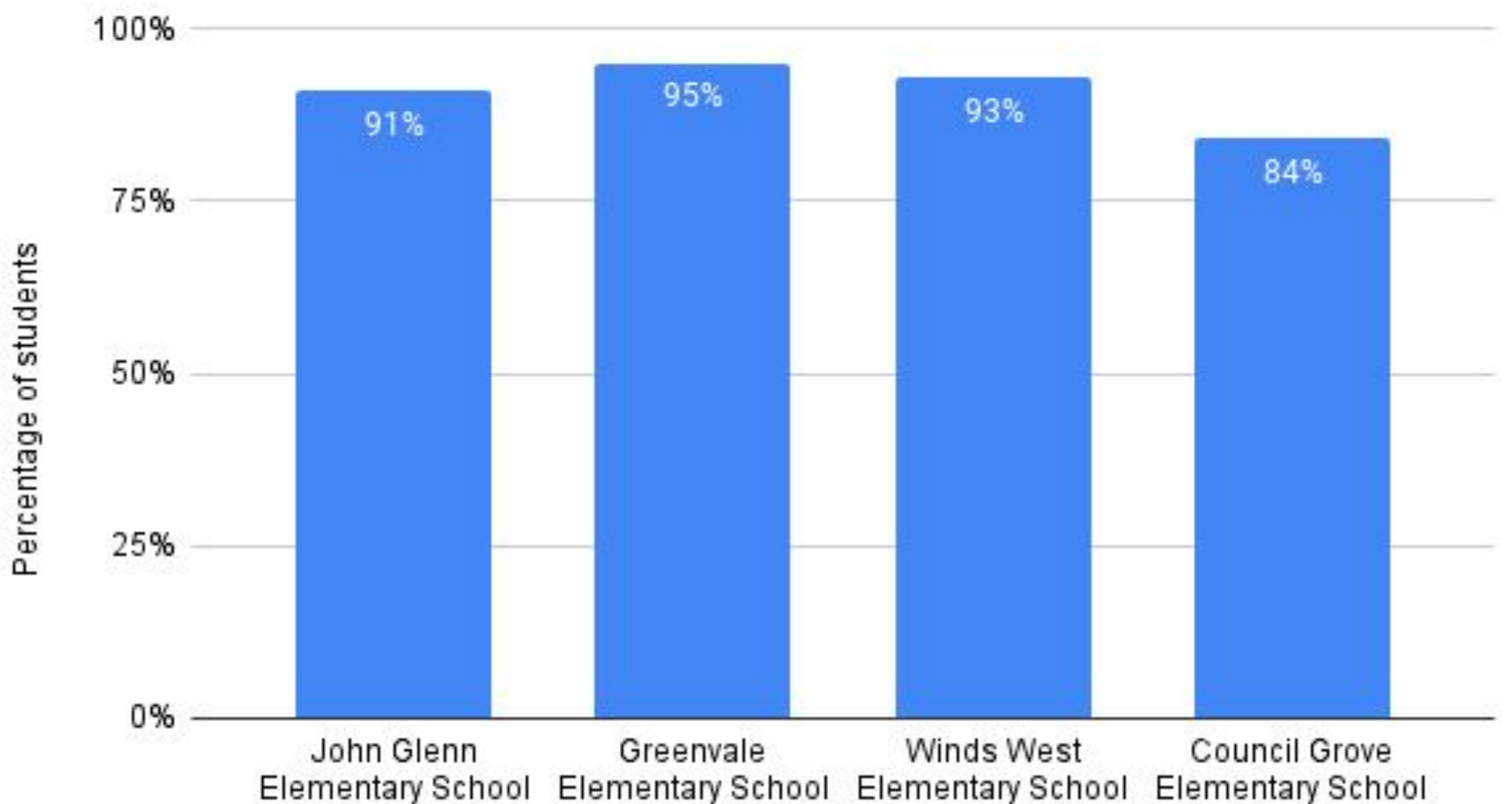
BEFORE LITTLE SPONGES PROGRAM

% of Students Showing English Proficiency Growth in 2021-2022 School Year Based on the WIDA Test Scores.



AFTER 6 MONTHS OF LITTLE SPONGES IMPLEMENTATION

% of Students Showing English Proficiency Growth in 2022-2023 School Year Based on the WIDA Test Scores.



Implementation Results:

The results of the Little Sponges® implementation were extremely impressive! EB students demonstrated unprecedented growth in language proficiency. Here are the specific outcomes for each school:

Winds West Elementary School:

- 21-22 WIDA to 22-23 WIDA: 52 out of 55 kids showed growth (95%)
- 32 students moved up one language acquisition band
- 6 students moved up two bands
- 14 students showed growth within their current band

John Glenn Elementary School:

- 21-22 WIDA to 22-23 WIDA: 79 out of 92 kids showed growth (86%)
- 40 students moved up one language acquisition band
- 14 students moved up two bands
- 25 students showed growth within their current band

Greenvale Elementary School:

- 21-22 WIDA to 22-23 WIDA: 41 out of 43 kids showed growth (95%)
- 22 students moved up one language acquisition band
- 6 students moved up two bands
- 11 students showed growth within their current band

Council Grove Elementary School:

- 21-22 WIDA to 22-23 WIDA: 52 out of 62 students showed growth (84%)
- 33 students moved up one language acquisition band
- 5 students moved up two bands
- 14 students showed growth within their current band



“

"Little Sponges was an essential factor in driving this incredible growth! Little Sponges enabled our teachers and helped our students achieve their goals."

Ms. Nicole Amzycki, Western Heights EL and Testing Coordinator

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Little Sponges® Implementation delivered significant improvements in language acquisition and student performance.
- ✓ In the academic year 2022-2023, 90% of students in all 4 elementary schools demonstrated substantial growth and were on track to exit the EB program, marking a significant improvement compared to previous years when students made no progress.
- ✓ Multilingual students outperformed their monolingual peers on state tests, demonstrating the positive impact of using Little Sponges for language development and content instruction.