

# Granger Independent School District

## Granger, Texas

**Location type:** Rural

**District/School enrollment:** 412 students Pre-K-12

**Percentage of students in district eligible for free and reduced price meals:** 57

### Key Takeaways

Granger Independent School District strives to be a “world-leading learning institution,” so it values the opportunity afforded by the OECD Test for Schools to measure its progress against international benchmarks. Its results have revealed helpful information. The district’s 2013-2014 results revealed that no students were performing at Levels 5 and 6 in science with a mean average of 474, 6 points below the world science average of 480.

### Actions Taken

-  Upon receiving its results, the district analyzed the data to help identify gaps in current policy and practice. District and school leaders have identified two immediate areas for taking action in response to the OECD Test for Schools results: deep analysis of vertical alignment and targeting PD with data driven instructional strategies. The district cross-walked the OECD Test for Schools results against the district’s state assessment results. This analysis has driven adjustments to the district’s scope and sequence and instructional strategies for math, reading, and science, with the goal of building students’ critical thinking and problem solving skills.
  -  After reviewing its science results, the district made significant changes to its science curriculum.
    - The district adopted a new curriculum that focuses on hands-on and manipulative-based learning. The curriculum has deepened students’ knowledge with authentic cross-curricular connections. The core approach is hands-on investigation - doing science is learning science. The new curriculum has made it easy for teachers to facilitate inquiry activities such as project-based learning.
  -  Granger ISD has taken considerable action in terms of providing timely and effective remediation.
    - The district’s data analysis system has made it possible to provide student feedback on assessments and mastery of standards quickly, allowing teachers to address struggling students sooner.
    - The district has focused on small instruction groups based on Response to Intervention (RTI) and double blocks students for additional remediation. This has provided students with targeted support.
  -  Granger ISD’s superintendent attended the 2014 Convening of World-Leading Schools, while the high school’s principal and a number of teachers attended the 2015 regional meeting in Texas. Both events have provided the opportunity to analyze results and discuss plans for action with peers.
  -  In response to its 2015 results, Granger is examining ways in which it can enhance its entire pipeline to better prepare students to compete globally.
    - This year, Granger ISD is taking a deep look at standards with all teachers with a major emphasis on early grade levels. K-2nd teachers are all attending professional development at a K-2 learning conference to focus on the state standards with more depth and vertical understanding.
    - The district plans to take more field trips during the 2015-2016 school year to create authentic learning experiences.
    - The district is also working to integrate project-based learning across the curriculum so that students can learn to apply multiple concepts from a similar project of study. With this approach, students do not simply receive knowledge, but deeply learn and apply it.
    - The district also has the goal of providing more inquiry-based learning and cross curricular opportunities for each student.
    - The district hopes to develop students’ learning so that they are intrinsically motivated. Granger plans to provide opportunities where students take personal ownership of their education and have a better understanding of their relationship to the world around them.
- When Granger’s students took the OECD Test for Schools again in 2014-2015, GISD saw a growth in mean scores of 6 points in reading, 18 points in math, and 15 points in science, with 4 percent scoring in Level 6. In addition, 46 percent of GISD were reading in the deep wide/narrow profile as compared with the 30 percent average of all U.S. students.

**Those wishing to learn more about the practices at Granger Independent School District may visit the district’s website [here](#).**