



Audio Technology Gets Students to Listen in Texas

In 2000, Principal Deborah Yocham met with the Willow Creek Elementary speech therapist to discuss ways to improve student attention and achievement scores. Yocham turned to **FrontRow** — a wireless voice amplification system that clarifies teachers' and students' voices — to test the concept in one classroom at Willow Creek. She noticed the impact on its students immediately.

Word of the system's success in Willow Creek soon spread to the rest of the district. This pilot program with the company has proven so successful that, in just six years, the Humble

Independent School District is implementing the technology throughout the district. It's now one of more than 2,900 U.S. school districts currently using the Active Learning Systems.

The systems comprise a lightweight, wireless microphone for the teacher, two to four speakers, a receiver and a hand-held pass-around microphone for the students. This student mic encourages turn-taking and public speaking confidence. Depending on the model, installation time ranges from 10 minutes to 90 minutes and requires positioning the speakers in the room, routing cables and mounting the

receiver and external sensors. In addition, the system can be connected to the teacher's computer and CD player, allowing it to serve as the audio communication center for the classroom.

Repeated studies in the last 15 years indicate that audio technology fosters a significant increase in student participation, attentiveness and performance. Humble School District Superintendent Dr. Guy Sconzo confirms these findings, observing that "the schools using the system show continuous improvement in standardized test scores across the board." **FOR FREE INFO CIRCLE 25**