

# HERO ELEMENTARY RESEARCH BRIEF: TELEVISION EPISODES & SONGS



**HERO ELEMENTARY** provides opportunities for science engagement and learning across a diverse target audience. Every episode embeds grades K-2 *Next Generation Science Standards* while including authentic characters that connect to students' lived experiences. *Hero Elementary* inspires, empowers, and deepens students' active science learning.

*Hero Elementary* episodes were “a great equalizer” that “created the most equal platform for special ed [children with disabilities], English Language Learners, and other abilities to all come together.” -Grade 2 teacher

**AN INDEPENDENT\* STUDY OF THE HERO ELEMENTARY PROGRAM WAS CONDUCTED IN 2020, WITH 407 CHILDREN AND 17 GRADE 2 TEACHERS PARTICIPATING.**

Findings showed that *Hero Elementary* episodes and songs:

- **Engage students from diverse backgrounds**  
“Everyone was able to connect, and that's what I appreciated, that was across the board. I saw students from different genders, different ethnicities, all connecting to one character or another, or more than one character.” -Grade 2 teacher
- **Apply to multiple contexts**  
“I did what I call freeze music. Once they got the song in their heads, I play it and stop and whoever could sing the next part got to line up first. It's like a little exit ticket.” -Grade 2 teacher
- **Support distance learning**  
“In the distance learning I was using the videos, the little short videos on what the superpowers [of science] were, more than I was in the classroom.” -Grade 2 teacher
- **Improve science knowledge**  
Students who participated in the *Hero Elementary* program performed better on science assessments,\*\* even during the pandemic.



\*WestEd conducted independent studies of children's use of the *Hero Elementary* program over 8 weeks.

\*\*Differences in test scores were positive but not statistically significant.

Twin cities PBS is a recipient of the Ready To Learn Initiative, supported by the U.S. Department of Education, The Initiative brings educational television and digital media resources to children, promoting early learning and school readiness, with an emphasis on supporting children from low-income, underserved communities.

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