

# Alamo Elementary School

GALVESTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
GALVESTON, TEXAS.

## SCHOOL PROFILE

**636 STUDENTS GRADES K-5**  
87% Economically Disadvantaged  
55% Hispanic  
35% African American  
7% White

## PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ IMPLEMENTATION

Classroom/Family Homework Model  
Grade 2, Began February 2004  
14-Week Implementation  
Part of a Nine-School District  
Implementation  
Reading/Language Arts/Mathematics  
Focus

## RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

Achieve Now Progress Test

## RESEARCH TIME FRAME

February – May 2004

## SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS MAKE GAINS IN READING, LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS

DURING THE SPRING SEMESTER OF THE 2003-2004 SCHOOL YEAR, THE SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS AT ALAMO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL USING PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ SHOWED GAINS IN READING, LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS SKILLS AS MEASURED BY PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ PRE- AND POST TESTS. SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS MADE AN AVERAGE PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN OF 9.00 (p=.036) IN PHONICS, DECODING AND WORD ANALYSIS, AN AVERAGE 6.90 (p=.265) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN GRAMMAR, MECHANICS AND USAGE AND AN AVERAGE 0.54 (p=.863) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN TOTAL LANGUAGE ARTS, WHEN PLATO PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES WERE COMPARED. THE SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS SHOWED AN AVERAGE 0.07 (p=.988) PERCENTAGE POINT DECLINE IN VOCABULARY COMPREHENSION, AN AVERAGE 5.17 (p=.477) PERCENTAGE POINT DECLINE IN LISTENING COMPREHENSION AND AN 8.75 (p=.047) PERCENTAGE POINT DECLINE IN READING COMPREHENSION.

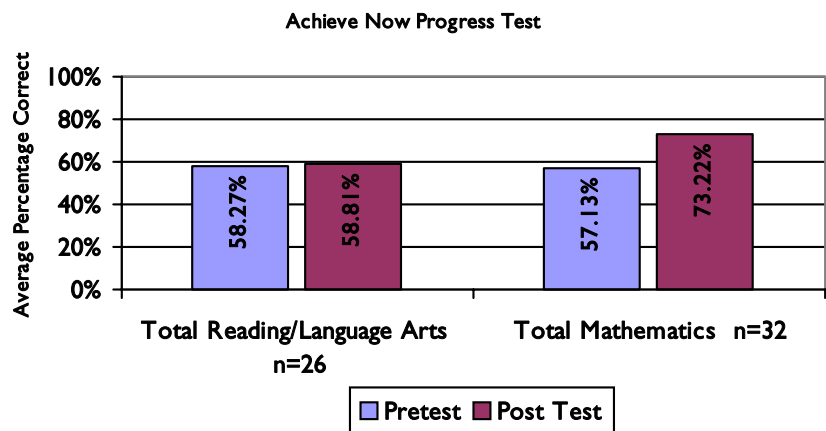
THE SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS MADE AN AVERAGE 13.24 (p=.016) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN MEASUREMENT AND GEOMETRY, AN AVERAGE 8.61 (p=.103) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN NUMBER SENSE AND NUMERATION, AN AVERAGE 10.91 (p=.037) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN COMPUTATION AND OPERATIONS, AN AVERAGE 29.55 (p<.001) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN DATA, STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY, AN AVERAGE 28.03 (p=.001) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN PATTERNS, FUNCTIONS AND RELATIONS, AN AVERAGE 18.09 (p=.002) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN PROBLEM SOLVING AND AN AVERAGE 16.09 (p<.001) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS, WHEN PLATO PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES WERE COMPARED.

DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION, ALL SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS USED PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ IN THE CLASSROOM AND IN A HOME DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM. PROGRAM SUCCESS WAS MEASURED USING THE PLATO ACHIEVE NOW PRE- AND POST TESTS. THE PRETEST WAS ADMINISTERED IN FEBRUARY AND THE POST TEST WAS ADMINISTERED IN MAY.

## Gains posted by second-grade students in Language Arts and Mathematics

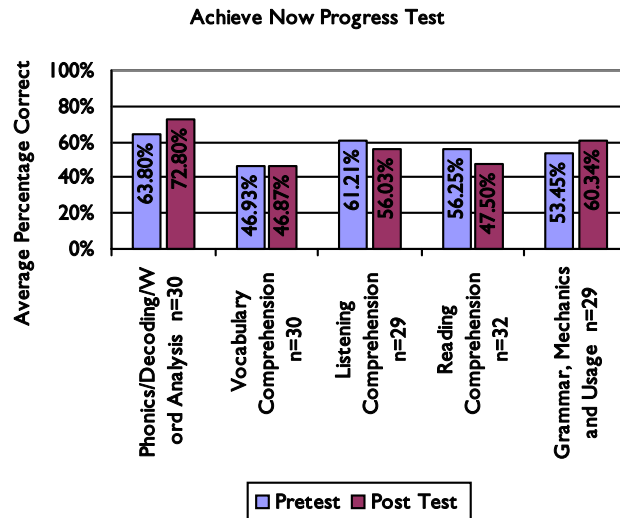
The second-grade students using PLATO Achieve Now™ at Alamo Elementary School made an average increase of 0.54 percentage points in Total Reading/Language Arts scores, moving from an average score of 58.27% on the pretest to an average score of 58.81% on the post test.

The second graders made a statistically significant average gain of 16.09 percentage points in Total Mathematics, moving from an average score of 57.13% on the pretest to an average score of 73.22% on the post test.



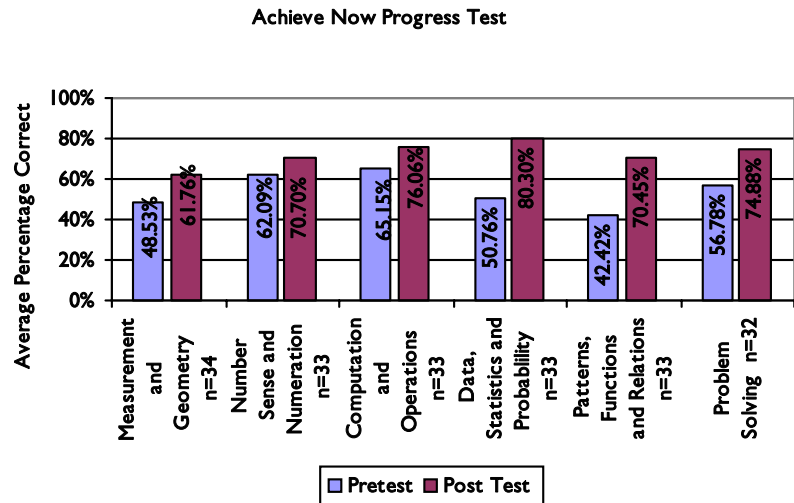
## Second-grade students made gains in some Language Arts and Reading Skills

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO Achieve Now™ Progress Tests were compared, the second-grade students at Alamo Elementary using PLATO Achieve Now curriculum made an average gain of 9.00 percentage points in Phonics, Decoding and Word Analysis, moving from an average score of 63.80% at pretest to an average score of 72.80% at post test. Students made an average increase of 6.90 percentage points in Grammar, Mechanics and Usage, moving from an average score of 53.45% at pretest to an average score of 60.34% at post test. Second-grade students declined an average of 0.07 percentage points in Vocabulary Comprehension, moving from an average score of 46.93% at pretest to an average score of 46.87% at post test. Second-grade students declined an average of 5.17 percentage points in Listening Comprehension, moving from an average score of 61.21% at pretest to an average score of 56.03% at post test. Second-grade students declined an average of 8.75 percentage points in Reading Comprehension, moving from an average score of 56.25% at pretest to an average score of 47.50% at post test. Results are statistically significant for Phonics, Decoding and Word Analysis and Reading Comprehension.



## Second-grade students made gains in Mathematics Skills

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO Progress Tests were compared, second-grade students at Alamo Elementary using PLATO Achieve Now curriculum made an average percentage point gain of 13.24 in Measurement and Geometry, moving from an average score at pretest of 48.53% to an average score of 61.76% at post test. Second-grade students made an average percentage point gain of 8.61 in Number Sense and Numeration, moving from an average score at pretest of 62.09% to an average score of 70.70% at post test. Second-grade students made an average percentage point gain of 10.91 in Computation and Operations, moving from an average score at pretest of 65.15% to an average score of 76.06% at post test. Students made a 29.55 average percentage point gain in Data, Statistics and Probability, moving from an average score of 50.76% at pretest to an average score of 80.30% at post test. Students made an average percentage point gain of 28.03 in Patterns, Functions and Relations, moving from an average score of 42.42% at pretest to an average score of 70.45% at post test. Second-grade students made an average percentage point gain of 18.09 in Problem Solving, moving from an average score at pretest of 56.78% to an average score of 74.88% at post test. The gains are statistically significant for all math categories but Number Sense and Numeration.



### Alamo Elementary School

Alamo Elementary School was one of nine elementary schools in the Galveston Independent School District

chosen to participate in a program supported by a TARGET Grant to address the student achievement of second-grade students. The district chose PLATO Achieve Now™ for the TARGET Grant Project to help close the gap between student performance and designated district standards. The project was designed to enhance interactive learning opportunities for students through the use of motivating curriculum software aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and the Galveston Independent School District curriculum.

Alamo Elementary serves students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. Alamo used PLATO Achieve Now with all second-grade classrooms with Reading and Mathematics as the target subjects for increased student achievement. The school used Achieve Now to increase student accessibility and utilization of technology and to improve each teacher's capacity to integrate technology into the curriculum. At Alamo Elementary, there is the belief that "All Alamo students will be successful and reach their potential."

Teachers began the alignment process during PLATO orientation when specific attention was given to CDs that targeted pivotal concepts for each performance level. Instructional objectives were selected by examining students' scores from the PLATO Achieve Now™ Progress Pretest. The objectives were prioritized, and the ones with the most impact were addressed first. Utilization of the grading template aided teachers in finding the appropriate CDs aligned to the individual student's needs. Children were involved with the PLATO Achieve Now™ Curriculum in school in large group, small group and during individual tutoring. Alamo Elementary encouraged parents to check out materials aligned to their child's specific needs.

Student success was measured with multiple assessments including PLATO Achieve Now Progress Tests, PLATO Progress Checks, interviews and teacher records. Program progress was monitored utilizing a mid-point and end of implementation review with all involved personnel. A comprehensive timeline was arranged so that teachers and students had personal contact with the consultant about every two to three weeks.

During the coming school year, Alamo Elementary will continue to receive professional development opportunities and onsite visits from the consultant. The school has purchased The PLATO Teaching and Learning Network™ and PLATO eduTest Assessment™ to assist in the assessment of student needs and in the integration of technology in instruction.



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