

Apache Junction Unified School District 43

DESERT VISA ELEMENTARY, FOUR PEAKS ELEMENTARY, GOLD CANYON ELEMENTARY, SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY, DESERT SHADOWS MIDDLE SCHOOL, THUNDER MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL
APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA.

SCHOOL PROFILE	
5050 STUDENTS GRADES PK-12 4 Elementary Schools 2 Middle Schools 1 High School 84% White 16% Minority	
PLATO® ELEMENTARY SOLUTIONS™ IMPLEMENTATION	
Grades 1-6 Summer School Remediation Classroom/Instructional Lab Model Reading/Language Arts/Mathematics Focus	
RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS	
PLATO® Elementary Solutions Mastery Tests District Achievement Tests	
RESEARCH TIME FRAME	
June 2001	

SUMMER SCHOOL STUDENTS SHOW IMPROVEMENT IN READING, LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS

APACHE JUNCTION UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 43 PURCHASED PLATO® ELEMENTARY SOLUTIONS AS PART OF A FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT USING TECHNOLOGY. THE DISTRICT OFFERED A FOUR- WEEK REMEDIAL SUMMER PROGRAM USING PLATO® ELEMENTARY SOLUTIONS FOR THOSE STUDENTS IN GRADES KINDERGARTEN THROUGH SIX WHO WERE BELOW GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS IN READING AND MATHEMATICS.

WHEN THE DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENT POST-TEST SCORES WERE EXAMINED, FIRST- GRADE STUDENTS SCORED 63% IN READING AND 86% IN MATHEMATICS, SECOND GRADE SCORED 83% IN READING, 69% IN LANGUAGE ARTS AND 80% IN MATHEMATICS AND FOURTH-GRADE STUDENTS SCORED 63% IN READING AND 70% IN MATHEMATICS. NO PRE-TEST SCORES WERE AVAILABLE FOR FIRST, SECOND OR FOURTH GRADES. THIRD-GRADE STUDENTS SCORED 61% ON THE PRE-TEST AND 89% ON THE POST-TEST IN READING WHILE IN MATHEMATICS THEY SCORED 65% ON THE PRE-TEST AND 90% ON THE POST-TEST. THE DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENT SCALE SCORES WERE REPORTED IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGE OF ITEMS CORRECT.

WHEN THE MASTERY AND TIME ON TASK DATA FOR PLATO® ELEMENTARY SOLUTIONS WAS EXAMINED, FIRST GRADE WORKED AN AVERAGE OF 374 MINUTES, MASTERED AN AVERAGE OF 10 ACTIVITIES AND HAD AN AVERAGE ACTIVITY SCORE OF 80%. SECOND GRADE WORKED AN AVERAGE OF 331 MINUTES, MASTERED AN AVERAGE OF 25 ACTIVITIES AND HAD AN AVERAGE ACTIVITY SCORE OF 88%. THIRD GRADE WORKED AN AVERAGE OF 374 MINUTES, MASTERED AN AVERAGE OF 25 ACTIVITIES AND HAD AN AVERAGE ACTIVITY SCORE OF 91%. FOURTH GRADE WORKED AN AVERAGE OF 287 MINUTES, MASTERED AN AVERAGE OF 34 ACTIVITIES AND HAD AN AVERAGE ACTIVITY SCORE OF 89%.

THE SUMMER PROGRAM RAN FOR FOUR WEEKS WITH STUDENTS SPENDING ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES EACH DAY USING PLATO® ELEMENTARY SOLUTIONS. CLASSES WERE HELD AT ALL ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS. DATA WAS INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT ONLY FOR ONE FIRST-, SECOND-, THIRD- AND FOURTH-GRADE CLASSES WHICH HAD VALID SCORES FOR THE DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENT TEST AND PLATO® ELEMENTARY SOLUTIONS USAGE DATA. PRE-TEST ACHIEVEMENT TEST SCORES WERE AVAILABLE FOR THE THIRD-GRADE CLASSROOM ONLY.

SCHOOL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Standards: Apache Junction Unified School District incorporated PLATO® Elementary Solutions as a supplement to remediation classes offered during the summer. The instructional design was tailored to supplement instruction which included both application and practice activities which addressed both state and district standards.

Curriculum and Instruction: PLATO® interactive curriculum was offered as part of a summer remediation program for students in grades kindergarten through six to address skill weakness in reading and mathematics. Student progress was closely monitored to allow teachers to tailor instruction based on individual student need.

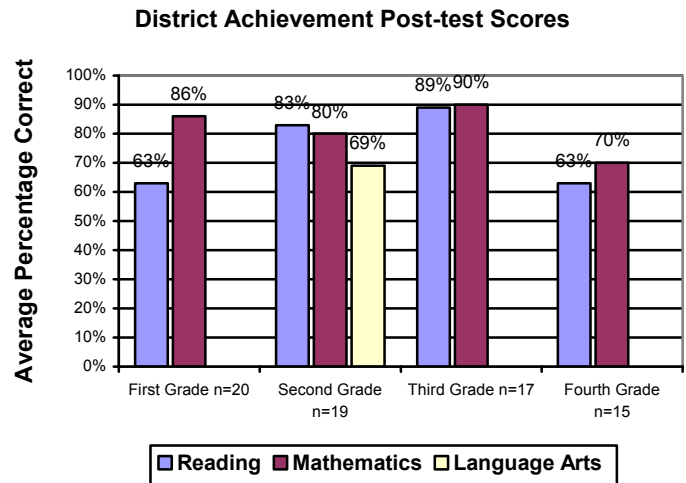
Assessment/Evaluation: Assessments used to monitor student progress included the PLATO® Elementary Solutions usage data, District Benchmark Tests and District Achievement tests. Overall student success was measured by post-test scores of the district-designed achievement tests.

Professional Development: In professional development sessions, teachers were given instruction for incorporating PLATO® Elementary Solutions into the state and district curriculums and in tailoring the courseware to address specific the specific skill gaps which had been identified by the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS).

Parental Involvement:

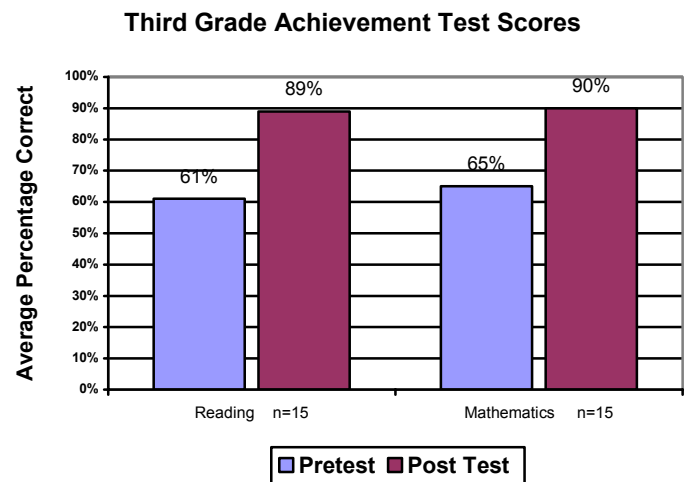
Students have strong post-test scores after using PLATO[®] Elementary Solutions

When the District Achievement post-test scores were examined for students attending the summer remediation program in the Apache Junction Unified School District, on average first-grade students scored 63% in Reading and 86% in Mathematics. On average second-grade students scored 83% in Reading, 69% in Language Arts and 80% in Mathematics. On average third-grade students scored 89% in Reading and 90% in Mathematics. On average fourth-grade students scored 63% in Reading and 70% in Mathematics. The scale scores for the district achievement test were reported as percentage of items correct.



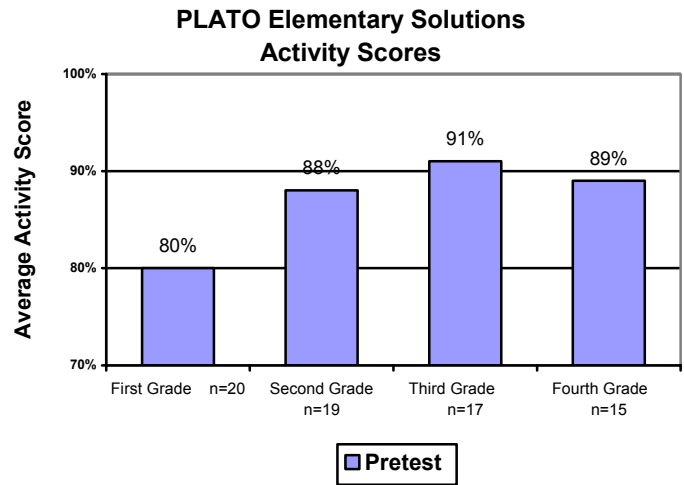
Third-grade students make significant gains in Reading and Mathematics

Only one third-grade class participating in the summer remediation program in the Apache Junction Unified School District reported valid pre- and post-test scores from the District Achievement test. When the pre- and post-test scores were examined on average the third-grade students had a significant percentage point gains of 27 ($p < .001$) in reading and 25 ($p < .001$) in mathematics.



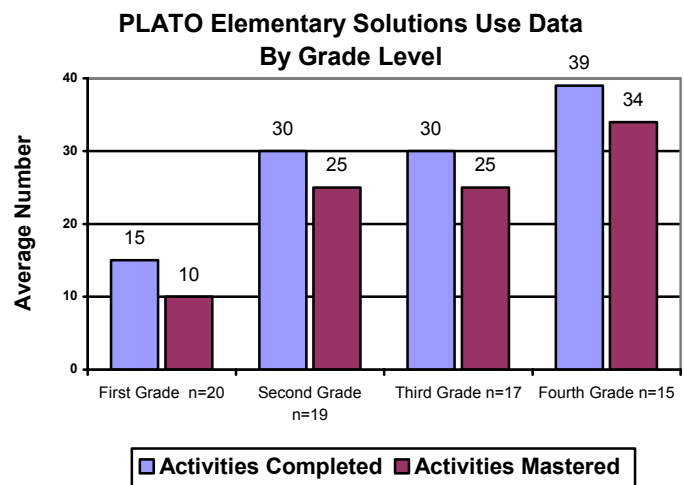
Students have high average scores on PLATO® Elementary Solutions Activities

The average number of correct answers scored by students in the summer remediation program at Apache Junction Unified School District 43 was 80% in first grade, 88% in second grade, 91% in third grade and 89% in fourth grade. The total time spent by grade level was 374 minutes in first and third grade, 331 minutes in second grade and 287 minutes in fourth grade.



Students showing high mastery of completed skills

When the PLATO® Elementary Solutions usage data was examined for students participating in the summer remediation program in the Apache Junction Unified School District 43, on average first-grade students completed 15 activities and mastered 10. On average second-grade students completed 30 activities and mastered 25. On average third-grade students completed 30 activities and mastered 25 while fourth-grade students completed 39 activities and mastered 34.



Apache Junction Unified School District 43 Background

During the 1999-00 school year Apache Junction Unified School District purchased PLATO® Elementary Solutions for use in the district's four elementary schools, Desert Visa, Four Peaks, Gold Canyon and Superstition Mountain, and two middle schools, Desert Shadows and Thunder Mountain to improve student performance. Using Federal e-rate money and Arizona Literacy Challenge Grants the district incorporated PLATO® Elementary Solutions as part of a five-year program of instructional improvement using technology.

During June of 2001, the district offered a summer remediation program for struggling students in grades kindergarten through six who were below grade level in reading and mathematics. The summer program ran for four weeks, (June 4-28) and approximately 100 students attended at each elementary school and 75 students attended at the middle schools. In each elementary school, the program was conducted by the principal and one teacher from each grade level. Approximately four teachers taught at each middle school. Classes were held from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. Monday thru Thursday and students were offered a total of 64 hours of classroom instruction and testing. Classes had regular blocks of time using PLATO® Elementary Solutions in either an instructional lab or in the classroom. Each student spent at least twenty-five minutes each day using PLATO® Elementary Solutions.

Students were selected for participating based on their performance on the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS). The state tests are given in third, sixth, eighth and tenth grades. District tests are administered in the remaining grades. In addition to student selection for the summer remediation program, these criterion-referenced tests were used to make student assignments to the PLATO® Elementary Solutions lessons.

Initial Professional Development sessions were held during the 1999-00 school year which was the first year of the district implementation. During that year there were three four-hour sessions of introduction to PLATO® Elementary Solutions and other PLATO® Instructional Courseware. Teachers who were chosen to work during the summer program were given additional hours of training where they were received instruction in how to focus the remediation to address specific skills.

Student progress was monitored by teacher observation, PLATO® Mastery Test Scores and benchmark tests from the Arizona Test Item Bank. Overall student improvement was measured by an examination of both PLATO® Elementary Solutions usage data and scores on district-designed achievement tests.

Teachers who used PLATO® Elementary Solutions during the summer program expressed positive opinions of the overall program and the additional student practice it provided. They felt that PLATO® Elementary Solutions was “motivating to students, interesting and that it was good for diagnosis and remediation.” The District Curriculum Director felt that the technical support provided by PLATO® Learning, Inc. was, “A+. They get back to me immediately whenever I have a question.”

Apache Junction Unified School District in partnership with PLATO® Learning, Inc. is making strides in improving educational opportunities for students through the use of technology which will help each student achieve his/her academic potential. The district is planning to continue their use of PLATO® Elementary Solutions and improve the implementation through upgraded hardware systems throughout the district.



For more information, call 800.44.PLATO or visit www.plato.com

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