

# Beit Seifer He

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK.

## SCHOOL PROFILE

283 STUDENTS – K-8  
Coed Jewish Day School  
100% White

## PLATO STUDENTS REALIZED ACADEMIC GROWTH ACROSS ALL TESTED AREAS

DURING THE 2002-2003 SCHOOL YEAR AT BEIT SEIFER HE, FOURTH-GRADE STUDENTS USING PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ ACHIEVED STRONG GAINS IN READING/LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS, AS MEASURED BY THE CALIFORNIA ACHIEVEMENT TEST, FIFTH EDITION (CAT 5). SPECIFICALLY, THE STUDENTS POSTED STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT AVERAGE STANDARD SCORE GAINS OF 34.18 ( $p=.005$ ), 37.36 ( $p=.001$ ), AND 35.64 ( $p=.001$ ) IN THE AREAS OF READING VOCABULARY, READING COMPREHENSION, AND READING TOTAL, RESPECTIVELY. FURTHER, THE STUDENTS REALIZED AVERAGE STANDARD SCORE GAINS OF 47.09 ( $p<.001$ ), 7.55 ( $p=.399$ ), AND 27.36 ( $p=.001$ ) IN THE AREAS OF MATHEMATICS COMPUTATION, MATHEMATICS CONCEPTS AND APPLICATIONS, AND MATHEMATICS TOTAL, RESPECTIVELY. RESULTS FOR MATHEMATICS COMPUTATION AND MATHEMATICS TOTAL SHOWED TO BE STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PRE- TO POST- TEST, THE STUDENTS SHOWED AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF 4.99%, 5.51%, 5.23%, 6.78%, 1.06% AND 3.89%, IN THE RESPECTIVE AREAS OF READING VOCABULARY, READING COMPREHENSION, READING TOTAL, MATHEMATICS COMPUTATION, MATHEMATICS CONCEPTS AND APPLICATIONS, AND MATHEMATICS TOTAL.

BEIT SEIFER HE RECEIVED SOFTWARE FUNDING FROM NEW YORK STATE (NYSSL) AND CHOSE TO IMPLEMENT PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ AS AN 18-WEEK HOME DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM TARGETED TOWARDS INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY INTO THE CURRICULUM, EXTENDING STUDENTS' LEARNING TIME, AND SUPPORTING THE SCHOOL'S PLAN TO IMPROVE STUDENT LITERACY.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PLATO ACHIEVE NOW INVOLVED WEEKLY TEACHER INTRODUCTION OF A NEW PLATO ADVENTURE™ TO PARTICIPATING SECOND- THROUGH FOURTH-GRADE STUDENTS. THIS WAS DONE IN A WHOLE GROUP SETTING. THE STUDENTS WERE THEN ASSIGNED PLATO ACHIEVE NOW ACTIVITIES AT HOME TO BE WORKED ON THREE TIMES A WEEK, AT A MINIMUM OF 20 MINUTES PER INTERVAL.

ALTHOUGH THE FOCUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION IS ON SECOND-, THIRD-, AND FOURTH-GRADERS, THIS STUDY REPORTS THE ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS OF FOURTH-GRADE STUDENTS WHO WORKED WITH PLATO ACHIEVE NOW. NO DATA WERE AVAILABLE FOR PARTICIPATING SECOND- AND THIRD-GRADE STUDENTS.

THE SAMPLE POPULATION CONSISTS OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS WHO TOOK BOTH PRE- AND POST-TESTS. FOURTH-GRADE STUDENTS WERE ASSESSED USING THE CAT 5. A SIMPLE COMPARISON OF 2002 TO 2003 TEST SCORES WAS PERFORMED TO MEASURE ACADEMIC GROWTH.

## ACHIEVE NOW™ IMPLEMENTATION

- Home Deployment
- Grades 2, 3, & 4, Began January 2003
- Reading/Vocabulary/Comprehension/Mathematics Focus

## RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

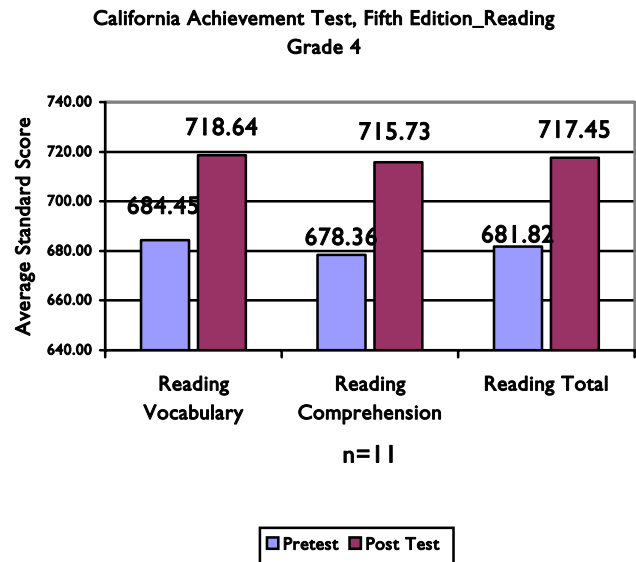
California Achievement Test, Fifth Edition (CAT 5)

## RESEARCH TIME FRAME

2002-2003 School Year

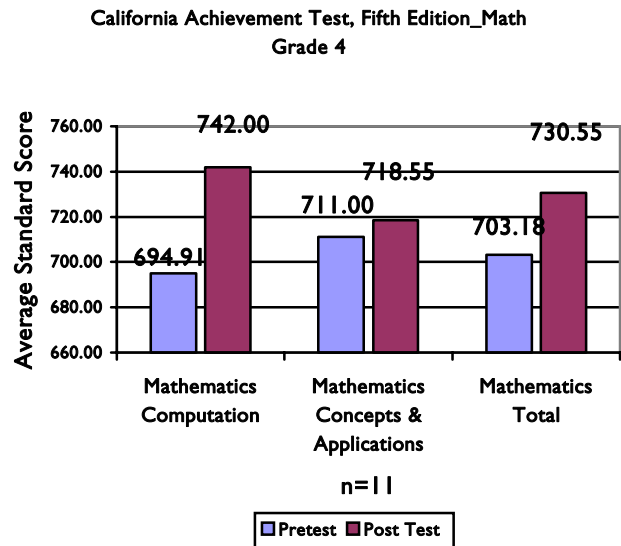
## Significant gains on the CAT 5 Reading components

A comparison of pre- and post- scores on the CAT 5 showed that fourth-grade students using PLATO Achieve Now curriculum realized average standard score gains of 34.18 ( $p=.005$ ), 37.36 ( $p=.001$ ), and 35.64 ( $p=.001$ ) in the areas of Reading Vocabulary, Reading Comprehension, and Reading Total, respectively. The results were statistically significant.



## Strong gains on the CAT 5 Mathematics components

From pre- to post- on the CAT 5, the fourth-grade students realized average standard score gains of 47.09 ( $p<.001$ ), 7.55 ( $p=.399$ ), and 27.36 ( $p=.001$ ) in the areas of Mathematics Computation, Mathematics Concepts and Applications, and Mathematics Total, respectively. Results for Mathematics Computation and Mathematics Total were statistically significant.



## Beit Seifer He Program Background

Beit Seifer He is a K-8 school with a student enrollment of 283. The school is a coeducational Jewish Day School located on Manhattan's Upper East Side. As the only Jewish Day School to offer an International Curriculum, the school is dedicated to combining three important elements in a child's education: rigorous academic standards, the communication of respect between students and teachers, and the broadening of the child's vistas by exposure to global ideas and concepts. Each of these elements is viewed through the lens of Jewish heritage and Jewish tradition. The notion of the International Curriculum is inspired by the distinguished career in the international arena of the school's founder and dean.

The teachers received professional development from the Achieve Now Consultant, who assisted them in analyzing data to drive instruction, as well as align their curriculum with the Achieve Now Adventures and New York State Standards. This alignment enabled the teachers to correctly choose activities related to their teaching objectives for direct instruction and individualized learning improvement. The professional development was provided as ongoing support to build capacity within the school.

As part of the program, the school provided families with materials to use at home with their children. Families attended an orientation where they were introduced to the program and a family night to allow them hands-on time to work with their children. Students were issued PS one™ game consoles for use at home with Achieve Now Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics CDs. Through Achieve Now families could be actively involved in their children's learning and educational experience.

In the 2003–04 school year the school will expand the program as an in school academic intervention for students grades 1 through 5.

## Board of Jewish Education Program Background

The Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York (BJE) works to motivate, strengthen and increase Jewish identity and commitment to the Jewish people through educational services and acculturation programs in New York. Comprehensive services are provided to more than 700 Jewish day, congregational and nursery schools, serving 130,000 youngsters, as well as group leaders from community centers and camps.

BJE assists in the distribution of Federal, State and City funds and services. Schools are also provided educational guidance and consultation as to best use of government funds. This is especially true regarding government monies in technology software. Currently, BJE and PLATO have formed partnerships with 32 Jewish day schools.

The BJE is an agency of United Jewish Association-Federation of New York. UJA-Federation fulfills its mission to care for those in need, strengthen Jewish personhood, and foster Jewish renaissance in New York, in Israel, and throughout the world; through a network of more than 100 local, national, and international agencies.

During 2003–04, BJE plans to expand the program to include additional campuses and a share and learn network as part of its Israel Berman Veteran's Day Professional Development Program for Elementary School Teachers. This will allow participating sites to develop a collective learning environment to broaden and deepen their understanding of best practices and educational philosophies.



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