

Bridgeton City Schools

INDIAN AVENUE ELEMENTARY, QUARTER MILE LANE ELEMENTARY, WEST AVENUE ELEMENTARY
BRIDGETON, NEW JERSEY.

STUDENTS MAKE GAINS IN READING, LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS

BRIDGETON CITY SCHOOLS CHOSE PLATO® INSTRUCTIONAL COURSEWARE TO OFFER TO PARENTS AS PART OF A SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES ONE THROUGH EIGHT. STUDENTS ATTENDING THE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM MADE GAINS IN READING, LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS.

WHEN PRE-AND POST-TEST SCORES OF THE PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW PROGRESS TESTS WERE COMPARED, ON AVERAGE FIRST GRADE DECLINED 4 (p=.492) PERCENTAGE POINTS, SECOND GRADE DECLINED 6 (p=.531) PERCENTAGE POINTS, THIRD GRADE MADE A 3 (p=.604) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN, FOURTH GRADE MADE A 6 (p=.122) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN, FIFTH GRADE MADE A 11 (p=.177) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN AND THE ONLY SIXTH-GRADE STUDENT WITH VALID PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES MADE A 13 PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN TOTAL READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS. RESULTS WERE NOT SIGNIFICANT. SIGNIFICANCE COULD NOT BE COMPUTED FOR GRADE SIX DUE TO THE SMALL SAMPLE SIZE.

IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN TOTAL READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS SCORES, FIRST GRADE MADE A 4% DECREASE, SECOND GRADE MADE A LESS THAN 1% DECREASE, THIRD GRADE MADE A 13% INCREASE, FOURTH GRADE MADE A 14% INCREASE, FIFTH GRADE MADE A 37% INCREASE AND THE ONLY SIXTH- GRADE STUDENT WITH VALID PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES MADE A 21% INCREASE IN TOTAL READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS SCORE.

WHEN PRE-AND POST-TEST SCORES OF THE PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW MATHEMATICS PROGRESS TESTS WERE COMPARED, ON AVERAGE FIRST-GRADE STUDENTS DECLINED LESS THAN 1 (p=.945) PERCENTAGE POINT, THIRD GRADE MADE A 10 (p=.128) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN, FOURTH GRADE MADE A SIGNIFICANT 15 (p<.001) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN, FIFTH GRADE MADE A SIGNIFICANT 23 (p=.003) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN AND THE ONLY SIXTH-GRADE STUDENT WITH VALID PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES MADE A 3 PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS. TOTAL MATHEMATICS SCORES COULD NOT BE COMPUTED FOR SECOND GRADE BECAUSE NOT ALL SKILL AREAS WERE ASSESSED. SIGNIFICANCE COULD NOT BE COMPUTED FOR SIXTH GRADE DUE TO THE SMALL SAMPLE SIZE.

IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS SCORES, FIRST GRADE MADE A 2% INCREASE, THIRD GRADE MADE A 41% INCREASE, FOURTH GRADE MADE A 66% INCREASE, FIFTH GRADE MADE A 95% INCREASE AND THE ONE SIXTH-GRADE STUDENT WITH VALID PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES MADE A 9% INCREASE IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS SCORE.

PLATO LEARNING, INC. REQUIRES STUDENTS TO ATTEND A MINIMUM OF 75% OF THE SCHEDULED SESSIONS, AND BY THE END OF THE PROGRAM PERIOD, 75% OF THE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTAIN A 15% INCREASE IN PROFICIENCY SCORES.

STUDENTS ATTENDED THE SES PROGRAM FOR A POSSIBLE 60 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION THROUGH THE SES IMPLEMENTATION USING PLATO® INSTRUCTIONAL COURSEWARE. FOR STUDENTS WITH AN 80% OR HIGHER ATTENDANCE RATE FIRST GRADE DECLINED 6 (p=.319) PERCENTAGE POINTS AND SECOND GRADE DECLINED 6 (p=.531) PERCENTAGE POINTS. THIRD GRADE MADE A 3 (p=.604) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN, FOURTH GRADE MADE A 7 (p=.136) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN, FIFTH GRADE MADE AN 11 (p=.177) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN AND THE ONLY SIXTH-GRADE STUDENT WITH VALID PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES MADE A 13 PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN TOTAL READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS WHEN PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES WERE COMPARED. RESULTS WERE NOT SIGNIFICANT.

IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGE CHANGE, FOR STUDENTS WITH AN 80% OR HIGHER ATTENDANCE RATE, ON AVERAGE FIRST GRADE DECLINED 7%, SECOND GRADE DECLINED 1%, THIRD GRADE MADE A 13% INCREASE, FOURTH GRADE MADE A 16% INCREASE, FIFTH GRADE MADE A 37% INCREASE AND THE ONLY SIXTH-GRADE STUDENT WITH VALID PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES MADE A 21% INCREASE IN TOTAL READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS SCORE.

IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS FOR STUDENTS WITH AN 80% OR HIGHER ATTENDANCE RATE ON AVERAGE FIRST GRADE DECLINED LESS THAN 1 (p=.946) PERCENTAGE POINT. ON AVERAGE THIRD GRADE MADE A 9 (p=.250) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN, FOURTH GRADE MADE A 16 (p<.001) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN, FIFTH GRADE MADE A 23 (p=.003) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN AND THE ONLY SIXTH-GRADE STUDENT WITH PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES MADE A 3 PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS WHEN PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES OF THE PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW PROGRESS TEST WERE COMPARED. RESULTS WERE SIGNIFICANT FOR FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE.

SCHOOL PROFILE

INDIAN AVENUE ELEMENTARY
524 STUDENTS GRADES K-8
77% Free/Reduced Lunch
46% Hispanic
27% African American
26% White
20% ELL

WEST AVENUE SCHOOL
453 STUDENTS GRADES K-8
86% Free/Reduced Lunch
57% Hispanic
31% African American
12% White
19% ELL

QUARTER MILE LANE SCHOOL
321 STUDENTS GRADES PK-8
74% Free/Reduced Lunch
64% African American
22% White
12% Hispanic

PLATO® INSTRUCTIONAL COURSEWARE™ IMPLEMENTATION

Grades 1-8
Supplemental Educational Services
Program Implementation
Reading/Language Arts/Mathematics
Focus
After-School Tutorial Model

RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test

RESEARCH TIME FRAME

2004-05 School Year

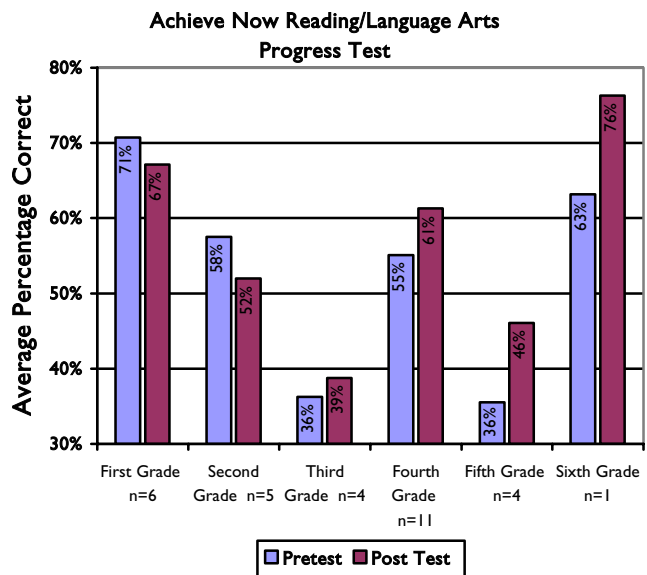
FOR FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE.

IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGE CHANGE FOR STUDENTS WITH AN 80% OR HIGHER ATTENDANCE RATE, ON AVERAGE FIRST GRADE MADE A 2% INCREASE, THIRD GRADE MADE A 37% INCREASE, FOURTH GRADE MADE A 77% INCREASE, FIFTH GRADE MADE A 95% INCREASE AND THE ONLY SIXTH-GRADE STUDENT WITH VALID PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES MADE A 9% INCREASE IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS SCORE.

STUDENTS WERE SELECTED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SES PROGRAM IN THE BRIDGETON CITY SCHOOLS BASED ON NEW JERSEY STATE TEST SCORES AND FREE AND REDUCED PRICE LUNCH QUALIFICATIONS. STUDENTS ATTENDED THE PROGRAM TWO DAYS EACH WEEK FOR 1.5 HOURS PER SESSION USING PLATO® INSTRUCTIONAL COURSEWARE. STUDENTS WERE ASSESSED USING THE PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW PRE-TEST AND PROGRAM SUCCESS WAS MEASURED BY A COMPARISON OF PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES. ONE EIGHTH-GRADE STUDENT WAS ASSESSED USING PLATO® eduTEST ASSESSMENT, BUT THESE SCORES WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT SINCE THE SAMPLE SIZE WOULD BE TOO SMALL FOR ADEQUATE ANALYSIS.

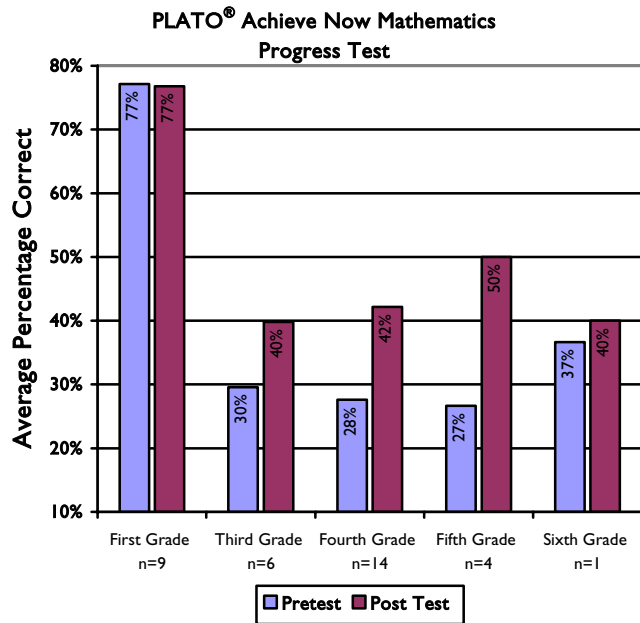
Students in third-, fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grades made gains in Total Reading and Language Arts

When students participating in the SES implementation offered by Bridgeton City Schools using PLATO® Instructional Courseware were assessed with the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test, on average students in grade one declined 4 (p=.492) percentage points, students in grade two declined 6 (p=.531) percentage points, students in grade three made a 3 (p=.604) percentage point gain, students in grade four made a 6 (p=.122) percentage point gain, students in grade five made an 11 (p=.177) percentage point gain and the one student in grade six with valid pre- and post-test scores made a 13 percentage point gain in Total Reading and Language Arts when pre- and post-test scores were compared. Results were not significant for grades one through five and significance could not be computed for grade six due to the small sample size.



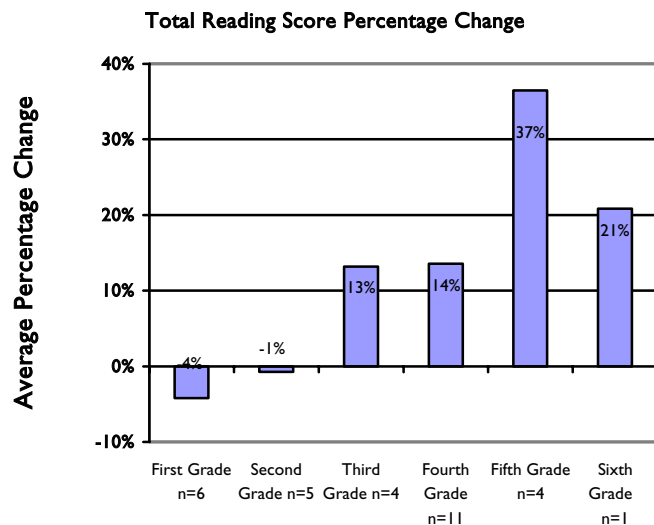
Students made gains in Total Mathematics

When students participating in the SES implementation offered by Bridgeton City Schools using PLATO® Instructional Courseware were assessed with the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test, on average students in grade one declined less than 1 ($p=.945$) percentage point, students in grade three made a 10 ($p=.128$) percentage point gain, students in grade four made a 15 ($p<.001$) percentage point gain, students in grade five made a 23 ($p=.003$) percentage point gain and the only grade six student with valid pre- and post-test scores made a 3 percentage point gain in Total Mathematics when pre- and post-test scores were compared. No Total Mathematics scores could be computed for second grade because all skill areas were not assessed. Results were significant for fourth and fifth grades; however significance could not be determined for grade six due to the small sample size.



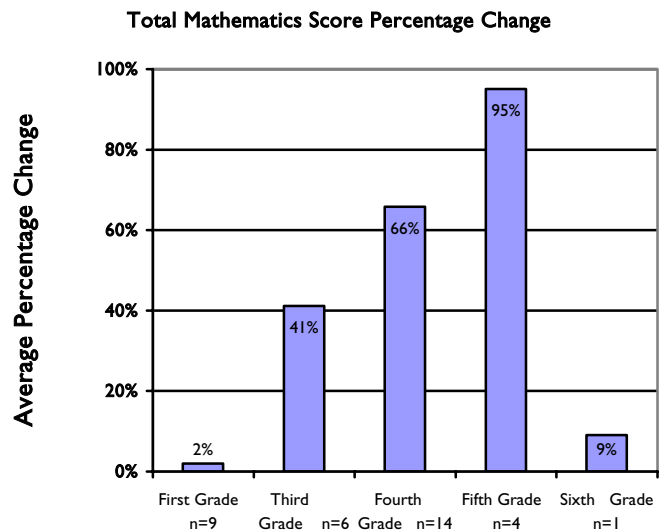
Students make percentage gains in Total Reading scores

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test for students participating in the SES implementation offered by Bridgeton City Schools were compared, on average first-grade students declined 4%, second-grade students declined 1%, third-grade students increased 13%, fourth-grade students increased 14%, fifth-grade students increased 37% and the only sixth-grade student with valid pre- and post-test scores increased 21% in Total Reading scores.



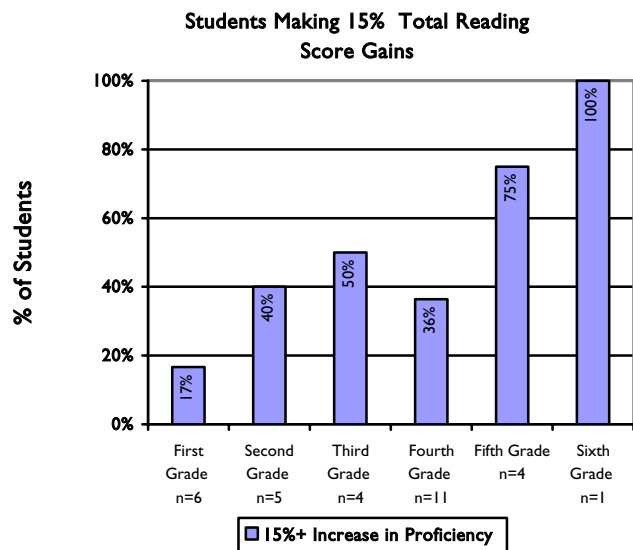
Students make percentage gains in Total Mathematics scores

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test for students participating in the SES implementation offered by Bridgeton City Schools were compared, on average students in first grade made a 2% increase, students in third grade made a 41% increase, students in fourth grade made a 66% increase, students in fifth grade made a 95% increase and the only student in sixth grade with valid pre- and post-test scores made a 9% increase in Total Mathematics scores. No Total Mathematics scores for second grade could be determined due to incomplete results for the subtests.



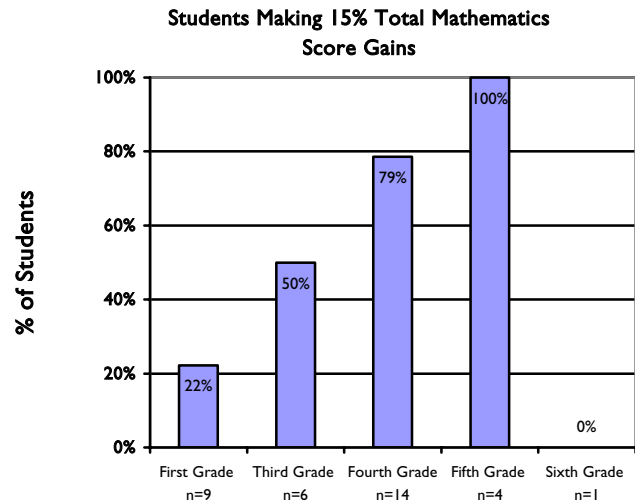
Students make a 15% gain in Total Reading scores

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test for students participating in the SES implementation offered by Bridgeton City Schools were compared, 17% of the first-grade students, 40% of the second-grade students, 50% of the third-grade students, 36% of the fourth-grade students, 75% of the fifth-grade students, and the only sixth-grade student with valid pre- and post-test scores made a gain of 15% or higher in Total Reading scores. The average attendance times were 54 hours for first grade, 60 hours for second grade, 54 hours for third grade, 55 hours for fourth grade, 56 hours for fifth grade and 58 hours for the one sixth-grade student.



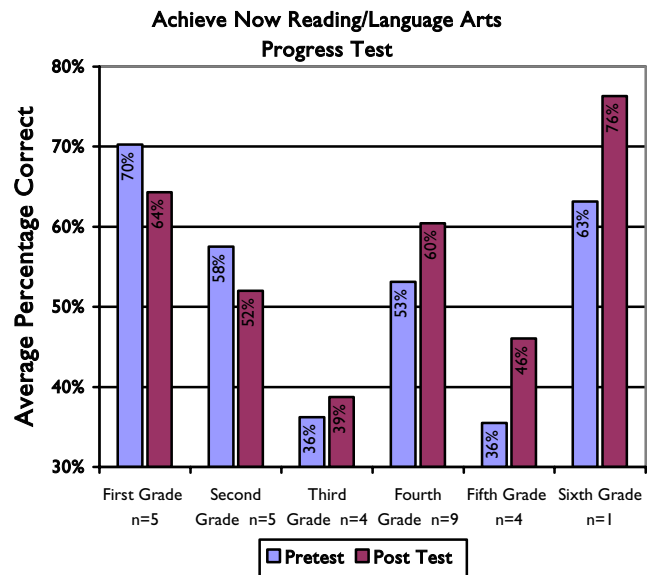
Some students make 15% gain in Total Mathematics scores

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test for students participating in the SES implementation offered by Bridgeton City Schools were compared, 22% of the first-grade students, 50% of the third-grade students, 79% of the fourth-grade students, and 100% of the fifth-grade students, made a gain of 15% or higher in Total Mathematics. The only sixth-grade student with valid pre- and post-test scores did not make a gain of 15% in Total Mathematics (0%) score. No Total Mathematics scores were figured for grade two because not all skill areas were assessed. The average attendance was 56 hours for first grade, 52 hours for third grade, 56 hours for fourth grade and fifth grade and 58 hours for the one sixth grade student.



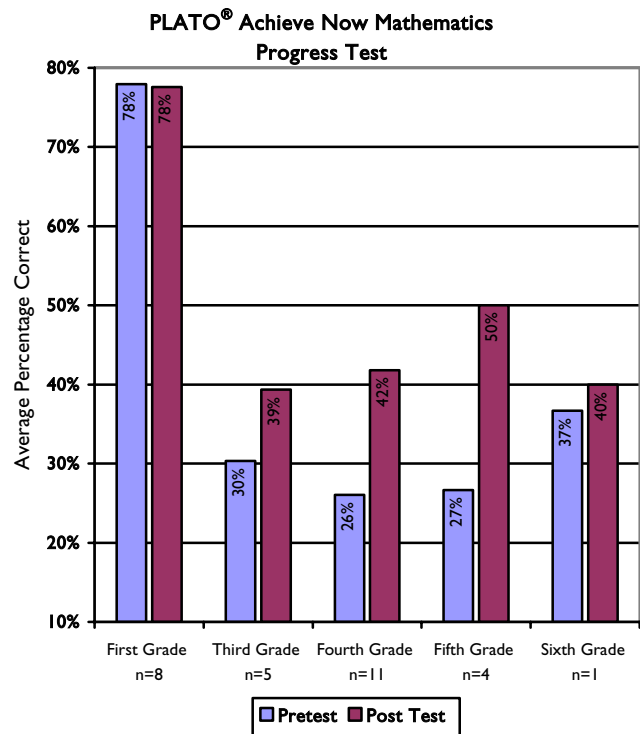
Students in third-, fifth- and sixth-grades with 80% attendance rate made gains in Total Reading and Language Arts

Students participating in the SES program in the Bridgeton Public School District using PLATO® Instructional Courseware were offered a total of 60 hours of instruction. Students had to attend a minimum of 48 hours to have an attendance rate of 80% or higher. When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test were compared for students who had an attendance rate of 80% or higher, on average first grade declined 6 (p=.319) percentage points, second grade declined 6 (p=.531) percentage points, third grade had a percentage point gain of 3 (p=.604), fourth grade had a percentage point gain of 7 (p=.136), fifth grade had a percentage point gain of 11 (p=.177) and the only sixth-grade student with valid pre- and post-test scores made a percentage point gain of 13 in Total Reading and Language Arts. Results were not significant for any grade level. Significance could not be determined for grade six because of the small sample size.



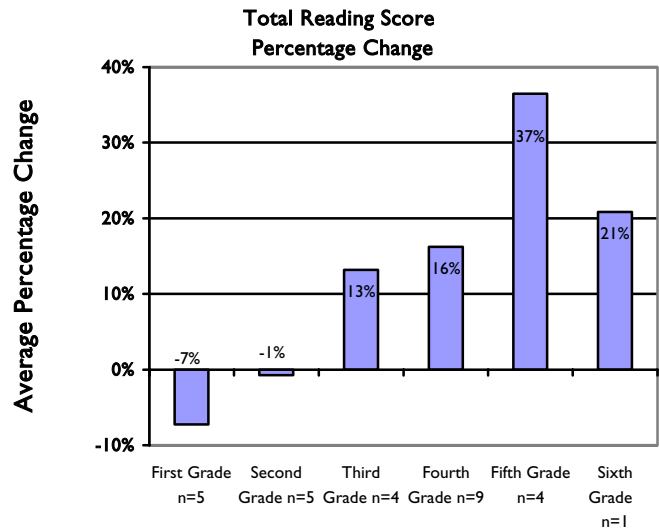
Students with 80% attendance rate made gains in Total Mathematics

Students participating in the SES program in the Bridgeton Public School District using PLATO® Instructional Courseware were offered a total of 60 hours of instruction. Students had to attend a minimum of 48 hours to have an attendance rate of 80% or higher. When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test were compared for students who had an attendance rate of 80% or higher, on average first grade had a percentage point decline of less than 1 ($p=.946$), third grade had a percentage point gain of 9 ($p=.250$), fourth grade had a percentage point gain of 16 ($p<.001$), fifth grade had a percentage point gain of 23 ($p=.003$) and the only sixth-grade student with valid pre- and post-test scores made a percentage point gain of 3 in Total Mathematics. Total Mathematics gains were not computed for second grade because not all skill areas were tested. Results were significant for fourth and fifth grade. Significance could not be computed for grade six because of the small sample size.



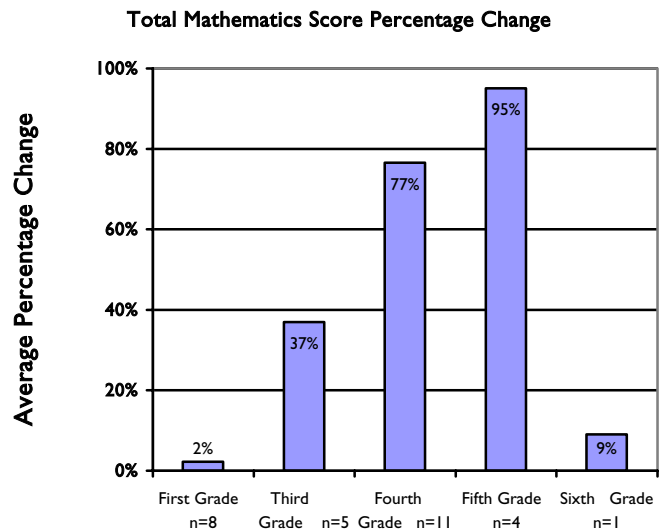
Students make percentage gains in Total Reading scores

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test were compared for students participating in the SES program in the Bridgeton Public School District who had attendance rates of 80% or higher, on average students in first grade made a 7% decrease, students in second grade declined 1%, students in third grade made a 13% increase, students in fourth grade made a 16% increase, students in fifth grade made a 37% increase and the only sixth-grade student with valid pre- and post-test scores made a 21% increase in Total Reading score.



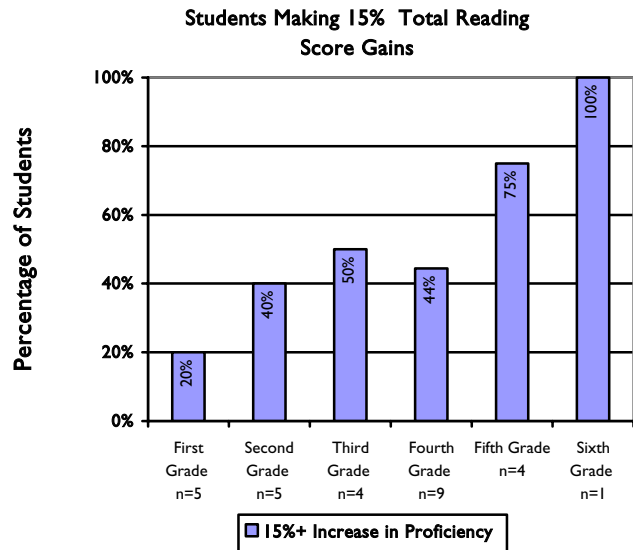
Students make percentage gains in Total Mathematics score

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test were compared for students participating in the SES program in the Bridgeton Public School District who had attendance rates of 80% or higher, on average students in first grade made a 2% increase, students in third grade made a 37% increase, students in fourth grade made a 77% increase, students in fifth grade made a 95% increase and the only sixth-grade student with valid pre- and post-test scores made a 9% increase in Total Mathematics score.



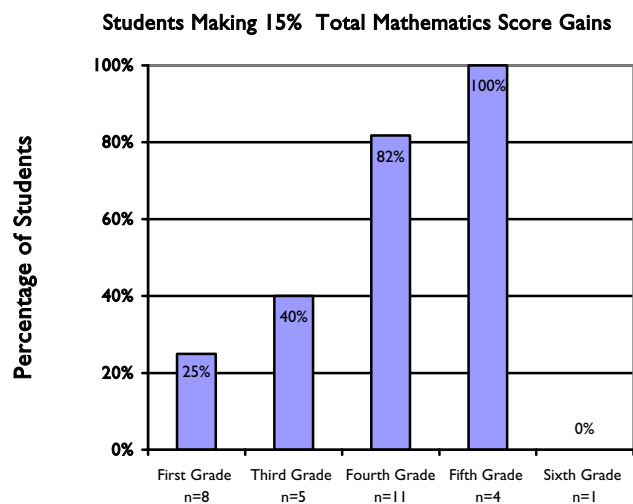
Students make a 15% gain in Total Reading scores

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test were compared, for students participating in the SES program in the Bridgeton Public School District who had an attendance rate of 80% or higher, 20% of the first-grade students, 40% of the second-grade students, 50% of the third-grade students, 44% of the fourth-grade students, 75% of the fifth-grade students, and the only sixth-grade student (100%) with valid pre- and post-test scores made a gain of 15% or higher in Total Reading score. The average attendance times were 56 hours for first grade, 60 hours for second grade, 54 hours for third grade, 58 hours for fourth grade, 56 hours for fifth grade and 58 hours for the one sixth-grade student.



Students with 80% attendance rate make 15% gain in Total Mathematics scores

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test were compared, for students participating in the SES program in the Bridgeton Public School District who had an attendance rate of 80% or higher, 25% of the first-grade students, 40% of the third-grade students, 82% of the fourth-grade students, and 100% of the fifth-grade students made a gain of 15% or higher in Total Mathematics scores. The only sixth-grade student with valid pre- and post-test scores did not make a gain of 15% in Total Mathematics (0%) score. No Total Mathematics scores were figured for grade two because not all skill areas were assessed. The average attendance was 58 hours for first grade, 55 hours for third grade, 59 hours for fourth grade, 56 hours for fifth grade and 58 hours for the one sixth grade student.



Bridgeton Public School District Background

The Bridgeton Public School District is driven by their vision: “To create a transparent school system, with state of the art facilities, clearly focused on having all students achieve academic and interpersonal excellence, supported by committed members and staff who feel a moral obligation to help all students meet the highest standards.” With this goal in mind, the district chose PLATO[®] Learning, Inc. as one of the approved providers of a Supplemental Educational Services program for students in grades one through eight. At three of the district’s schools, Indian Avenue Elementary School, Quarter Mile Lane Elementary School and West Elementary School, parents chose PLATO[®] Instructional Courseware for use in an after-school program to help increase their child’s achievement in the areas of Reading, Language Arts and Mathematics.

Funded through a Title 1 Supplemental Educational Services Program, implementation of PLATO[®] Instructional Courseware began in February 2005. The program employed tutors hired by PLATO[®] Learning, Inc. and supervised by the participating schools. Students in grade one through eight were targeted for participation. One of the participating schools, Quarter Mile Lane Elementary, enrolled approximately 44% of the student participants classified as Special Needs students.

In professional development sessions, tutors were provided an overview of PLATO[®] Instructional Courseware and hands-on sessions using the curriculum and learning paths. The tutors were trained how to use of the learning paths as guides for instruction and to conduct both guided practice and independent practice sessions.

After students were assessed using the PLATO[®] Achieve Now Pretests, paper learning paths were created for each student and students worked on identified skill weaknesses as well as teacher selected concepts. Students attended the after school program two days each week, 1.5 hours each day for a total instructional program of 60 hours. Each session included individual review and reinforcement, small group and direct instruction.

Multiple assessments were used to monitor student progress throughout the program included the PLATO Achieve Now Progress Tests, PLATO[®] Achieve Now Progress Checks and PLATO[®] eduTest Assessment. Program success was measured by an analysis of the PLATO[®] Achieve Now Progress Test scores.

A parent training session was held at the beginning of the program to inform parents of student goals. Parents were given progress reports every two weeks and a parent meeting was held at the conclusion of the program to review student progress.

Choosing PLATO[®] Instructional Courseware for use as the SES skill-and-content model ensured replicable results and offered an innovative research based curriculum to further support the Bridgeton Public School District’s efforts to increase student achievement and to encourage those students to strive for “academic and interpersonal excellence”.



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

Real learning. Real results.™