

Burnet Elementary School

GALVESTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
GALVESTON, TEXAS.

SCHOOL PROFILE

647 STUDENTS GRADES K-5
73% Economically Disadvantaged
58% Hispanic
23% White
18% African American

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 SHOW GAINS IN READING, LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS AFTER USING PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™

DURING THE SPRING SEMESTER OF THE 2003-2004 SCHOOL YEAR, SECOND- GRADE STUDENTS AT BURNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOWED GAINS IN READING, LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS AS MEASURED BY PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ PRE- AND POST-TESTS. ON AVERAGE, SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS MADE AN 12.28 ($p < .001$) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN PHONICS, DECODING AND WORD ANALYSIS, A 5.14 ($p = .136$) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN VOCABULARY COMPREHENSION, DECLINED 16.46 ($p = .001$) PERCENTAGE POINTS IN LISTENING COMPREHENSION, DECLINED 6.88 ($p = .070$) PERCENTAGE POINTS IN READING COMPREHENSION, BUT ACHIEVED A 1.67 ($p = .719$) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN GRAMMAR, MECHANICS AND USAGE AND A 2.47 ($p = .370$) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN TOTAL READING/LANGUAGE ARTS, WHEN PLATO PRE- AND POST- TEST SCORES WERE COMPARED.

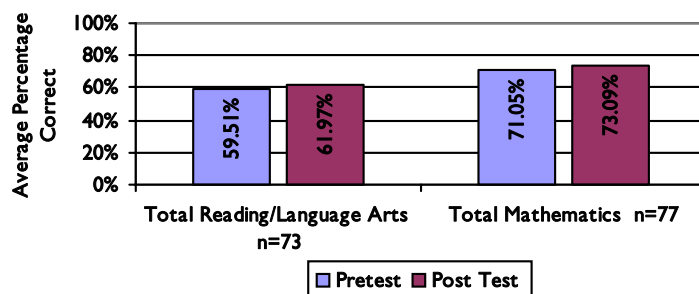
ON AVERAGE, THE SELECTED SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS DECLINED 12.82 ($p = .002$) PERCENTAGE POINTS IN MEASUREMENT AND GEOMETRY, BUT MADE A 3.17 ($p = .281$) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN NUMBER SENSE AND NUMERATION, A 1.30 ($p = .576$) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN COMPUTATION AND OPERATIONS, A 13.96 ($p < .001$) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN DATA, STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY, AN 8.44 ($p = .003$) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN PATTERNS, FUNCTIONS AND RELATIONS, A 1.47 ($p = .635$) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN PROBLEM SOLVING AND A 2.04 ($p = .217$) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS, WHEN PLATO PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES WERE COMPARED.

DURING THE FOURTEEN-WEEK IMPLEMENTATION, STUDENTS USED PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ IN THE CLASSROOM IN SMALL GROUP, LARGE GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL SETTINGS. PARENTS WERE ENCOURAGED TO CHECK OUT CURRICULUM FOR HOME DEPLOYMENT. SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS WERE THE GRADE LEVEL FOCUS, AND 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

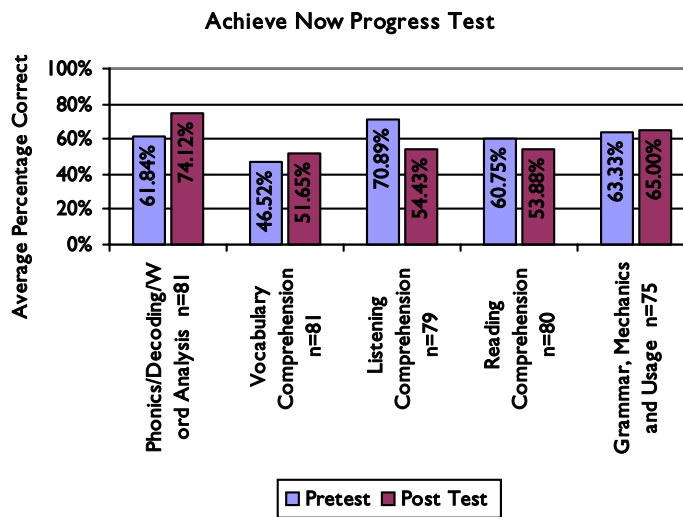
The second-grade students using PLATO Achieve Now™ at Burnet Elementary School made gains in Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics on Plato Achieve Now Progress Tests. These second-grade students made an average percentage point increase of 2.47 in Total Language Arts scores, moving from an average score of 59.51% on the pretest to an average score of 61.97% on the post test. The second-grade students made an average percentage point gain of 2.04 in Total Mathematics scores, moving from an average score of 71.05% on the pretest to an average score of 73.09% on the post test. Nevertheless, the gains are not statistically significant.

Achieve Now Progress Test



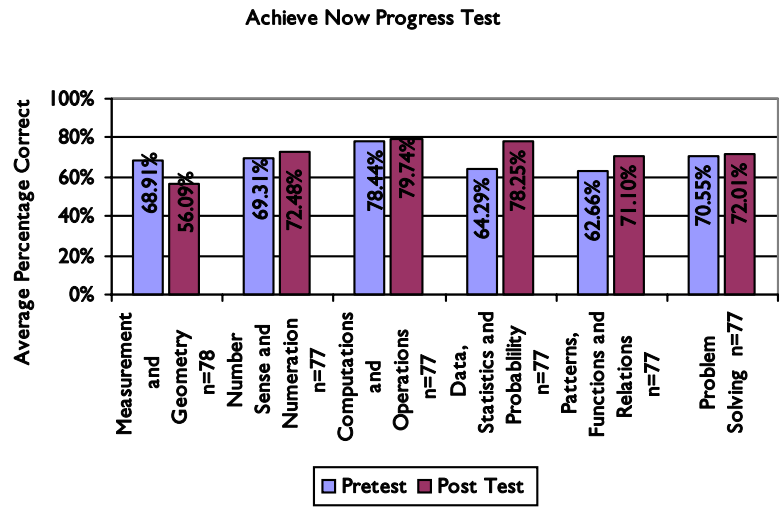
Second-grade students made gains in some Language Arts and Reading Skills

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO Achieve Now™ Progress Tests were compared, the second-grade students at Burnet Elementary using PLATO Achieve Now curriculum made an average gain of 12.28 percentage points in Phonics, Decoding and Word Analysis, moving from an average score of 61.84% at pretest to an average score of 74.12% at post test. Students made an average gain of 5.14 percentage points in Vocabulary Comprehension, moving from an average score of 46.52% at pretest to an average score of 51.65% at post test. Students made an average increase of 1.67 percentage points in Grammar, Mechanics and Usage, moving from an average score of 63.33% at pretest to an average score of 65.00% at post test. Second-grade students declined an average of 16.46 percentage points in Listening Comprehension, moving from an average score of 70.89% at pretest to an average score of 54.43% at post test. Second-grade students declined an average of 6.88 percentage points in Reading Comprehension, moving from an average score of 60.75% at pretest to an average score of 53.88% at post test. The results are statistically significant for the categories Phonics, Decoding and Word Analysis and Listening 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 using PLATO Achieve Now curriculum at Burnet Elementary declined an average of 12.82 percentage points in Measurement and Geometry, moving from an average score of 68.91% at pretest to an average score of 56.09% at post test. Second-grade students made an average gain of 3.17 percentage points in Number Sense and Numeration, moving from an average score of 69.31% at pre-test to an average score of 72.48% at post test. Second-grade students made an average gain of 1.30 percentage points in Computation and Operations, moving from an average score of 78.44% at pre-test to an average score of 79.74% at post test. Students made an average gain of 13.96 percentage points in Data, Statistics and Probability, moving from an average score of 64.29% at pre-test to an average score of 78.25% at post test. Second-grade students made an average gain of 8.44 percentage points in Patterns, Functions and Relations, moving from an average score of 62.66% at pre-test to an average score of 71.10% at post test. Students made an average increase of 1.47 percentage points in Problem Solving, moving from an average score of 70.55% at pretest to an average score of 72.01% at post test. Results are statistically significant for the categories Measurement and Geometry, Data, Statistics and Probability, and Patterns, Functions and Relations.



Burnet Elementary School

Burnet 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 the second-grade students. The district chose PLATO Achieve Now™ 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. Burnet has a campus creed which states: “I can think, I can do, I can learn.”

Burnet Elementary serves students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. The TARGET Grant specifications were written for second-grade students in an attempt to make sure that those students were adequately prepared for the second grade at the end of the year. This implementation began in February of 2004. The school used three PS-1 game consoles and a LCD Screen Combo Station for mini-labs in the participating second grade classrooms. Burnet Elementary had an initial implementation beginning in 2001 for all grade levels with Reading and Mathematics as the target subjects for increased student achievement. Burnet added this implementation to their already existing PLATO program.

Curriculum alignment began during the program orientation when specific attention was given to CDs that targeted pivotal concepts for each performance level. During professional development orientations, teachers were instructed on using PLATO Achieve Now Progress test results to identify instructional objectives and to align learning pathways for each individual student. Utilization of the grading template aided the classroom teacher in finding the appropriate CDs aligned to the individual student’s needs. Objectives were prioritized and the objectives with the most impact were addressed first. Students used Achieve Now in the classroom two to three times each week for durations of between twenty and forty-five minutes each session. Families were given numerous opportunities to check out materials specifically aligned to their child’s needs.

Student success was measured with multiple assessments, including the 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.

During the coming school year, Burnet 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 increase integration opportunities of online assessment data.



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