

<h1>Holly Springs Intermediate</h1> <p>HOLLY SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT HOLLY SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI.</p>	<p>SCHOOL PROFILE</p> <p><b>500 STUDENTS, GRADES 4-6</b> 100% Free/Reduced Lunch 97% African American 2% White 1% Hispanic</p>	
	<p>PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ IMPLEMENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Classroom/Family Homework Model</li> <li>▪ Grade 4, Began August, 2002</li> <li>▪ Home Deployment thru Parent Center</li> <li>▪ Reading/Vocabulary/Comprehension Mathematics Focus</li> <li>▪ Comprehensive School Reform</li> </ul>	
<p><b>FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS USING PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ DEMONSTRATED SIGNIFICANT GAINS IN READING, LANGUAGE, AND MATHEMATICS</b></p> <p>DURING THE 2002-2003 SCHOOL YEAR, FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS AT HOLLY SPRINGS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL SHOWED STRONG GAINS IN READING, LANGUAGE, AND MATHEMATICS, AS MEASURED BY THE MISSISSIPPI CURRICULUM TEST (MCT). SPECIFICALLY, THE STUDENTS POSTED SIGNIFICANT AVERAGE SCALED SCORE GAINS OF 30.17 (p&lt;.001), 24.16 (p&lt;.001), AND 36.59 (p&lt;.001) IN THE AREAS OF READING, LANGUAGE, AND MATHEMATICS, RESPECTIVELY.</p> <p>HOLLY SPRINGS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL RECEIVED A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL REFORM DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM GRANT AND CHOSE TO IMPLEMENT PLATO ACHIEVE NOW AS PART OF THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN. FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL USED PLATO ACHIEVE NOW IN THE CLASSROOM AND AT HOME OVER THE SCHOOL YEAR. THE STUDENTS' 2002 AND 2003 MCT SCORES WERE COMPARED TO EVALUATE ACADEMIC GROWTH.</p>	<p>RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>Mississippi Curriculum Test (MCT)</p>	
	<p>RESEARCH TIME FRAME</p> <p>2002-2003 School Year</p>	

## SCHOOL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

**Standards:** Holly Springs Intermediate School was awarded a Comprehension School Reform Demonstration Grant (CSR) funding and chose the PLATO Achieve Now skill-and-content model to support its reform efforts. The school is guided by the philosophy of a balanced approach to teaching and learning consistent with the Mississippi Standards of Learning.

**Curriculum and Instruction:** PLATO’s interactive curriculum was integrated into content instruction at grade four. Teachers used the PLATO curriculum in the classroom on a regular basis and for home deployment on a limited basis throughout the school year. Individual student progress was continually assessed to allow teachers to tailor classroom instruction and curriculum to the individual learning needs of their students. The PLATO curriculum was often used to reinforce and extend learning concepts.

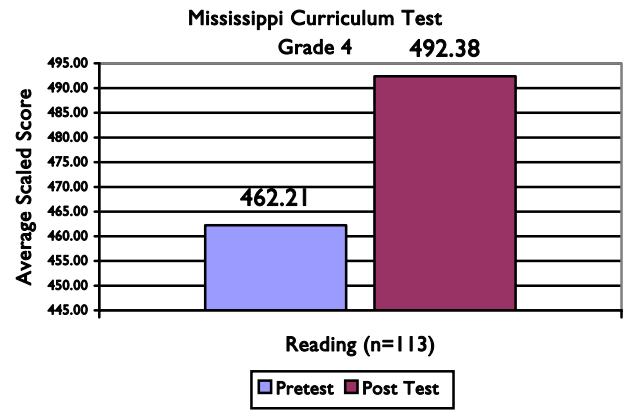
**Assessment/Evaluation:** Multiple assessments were used to monitor student progress throughout the school year such as: the PLATO Achieve Now Progress Tests, PLATO Progress Checks, state practice test, PLATO eduTest Assessment, and teacher-developed assessments along with a CSR School Self-Assessment. This Self-Assessment instrument was administered at designated intervals during the implementation to help the school evaluate the progress of the implementation and define next steps.

**Professional Development:** Teachers participated in professional development activities throughout the school year. These sessions were developed based on needs identified by administrative staff and teachers. Sessions included: coaching/classroom demonstrations, hands-on learning and alignment to the Mississippi Standards.

**Parental Involvement:** Home instructional plans increase and enhance active family participation in their child’s learning. PLATO Achieve Now gave families meaningful choice and proven strategies for supporting student success. Parents are continuously informed about the evidences of student learning and assessment practices. Parents indicated their child showed improved attention and increased interest in schoolwork when using PLATO Achieve Now.

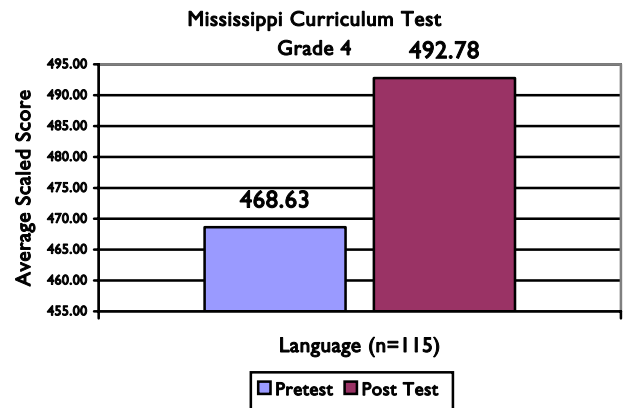
## PLATO students posted a significant gain in Reading

Fourth grade students using PLATO Achieve Now curriculum realized an increase of 30.17 scaled score points in the Reading portion of the Mississippi Curriculum Test, when pre- and post-test averages were compared. The increase is statistically significant.



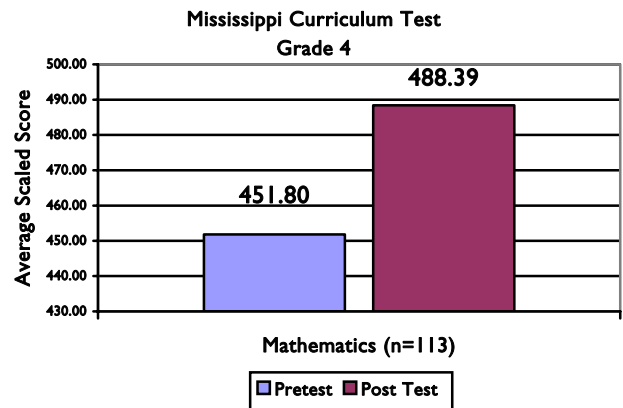
## PLATO students demonstrated significant growth in Language

The PLATO students showed an average gain of 24.16 scaled score points in the Language portion of the Mississippi Curriculum Test. The gain is statistically significant.



## PLATO students showed a significant gain in Mathematics

The fourth-grade students posted an average increase of 36.59 scaled score points in the Mathematics portion of the Mississippi Curriculum Test. The increase is statistically significant.



## Holly Springs School District Program Background

In August 2002, Holly Springs School District implemented PLATO Achieve Now at Holly Springs Intermediate School, funded by a Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Grant. It was the decision of the district and the school to begin the implementation in grade four the first year of the grant, grade five the second year and grade six the third year, resulting in participation at all grade levels.

Throughout the school year, the administrative staff attended planning meetings to set and carry out the school goals for the PLATO implementation. Professional development was adapted to the individual school needs with on-site training. Teachers were trained to implement PLATO Achieve Now into their everyday lesson plans, align the PLATO curriculum to the Mississippi State Standards and apply other best practices. Classroom integration and Family Involvement Workshops were held through out the school year.

## Holly Springs Intermediate Program Background

Holly Springs Intermediate, located in Holly Springs, Mississippi is part of an urban community and serves a growing population of over 500 students in grade four through six. Ninety-seven percent of the student population is African American, two percent white, and 1 percent is Hispanic. One hundred percent of students receive free/reduced lunch.

Implementation of PLATO Achieve Now, The PLATO Network, and PLATO eduTest Assessment in Holly Springs Intermediate began in September 2002, using funds from a CSR grant. One hundred and twenty students in grade four were targeted to implement The PLATO Achieve Now Program. The specific goal of the implementation was to decrease the number of students in fourth grade that scored in the minimal proficiency level in reading/language arts and math on the Mississippi Curriculum Test.

All students participating in the PLATO Achieve Now Program were pre-tested in September 2002. The PLATO post-test was administered in May, 2003. Teachers attended professional development sessions to analyze pre-test results and to determine greatest areas of need by grade, class, and individual students. The PLATO Achieve Now Program was aligned with the district's curriculum and the Mississippi State Standards. Throughout the school year, the teachers used the PLATO curriculum for direct instruction and individualized student-learning improvement. Students checked out PlayStation 2s for use at home and PLATO Achieve Now CDs weekly through the Parent Center. Family members attended a training session where students and teachers demonstrated the PLATO Achieve Now Program software using the Sony PlayStation 2s and Achieve Now CDs. Parents participated by having hands-on experience with their child in individual classrooms.

The second year of the Comprehensive Reform Grant will include all fifth grade classes, which will expand the PLATO Achieve Now Program, allowing all fourth and fifth grade classes the opportunity to participate during the 2003-2004 school year.



For more information, call 800.44.PLATO or visit [www.plato.com](http://www.plato.com)

Real learning. Real results.™