

Bolivar Elementary School

GALVESTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
GALVESTON, TEXAS.

SCHOOL PROFILE

178 STUDENTS GRADES K-5
64% Economically Disadvantaged
70% White
27% Hispanic
1% African American
1% Native 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 AT BOLIVAR ELEMENTARY SHOW STRONG GAINS IN CERTAIN READING, LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS SKILLS

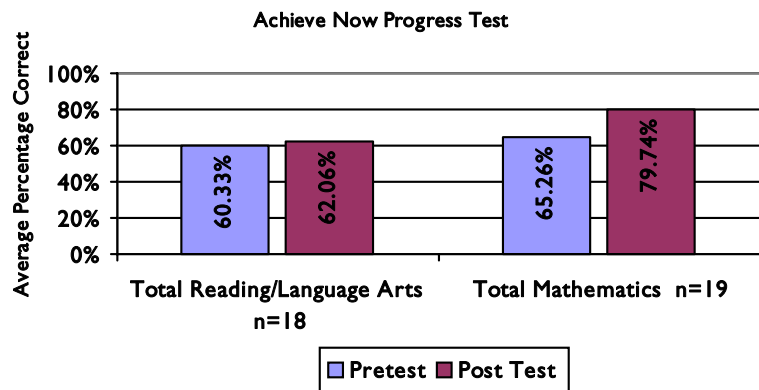
DURING THE SPRING SEMESTER OF THE 2003-2004 SCHOOL YEAR, SELECTED SECOND- GRADE STUDENTS AT BOLIVAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOWED GAINS IN READING/LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS AS MEASURED BY PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ PRE- AND POST TESTS. ON AVERAGE, SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS MADE AN 18.00 (p<.001) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN PHONICS, DECODING AND WORD ANALYSIS, A 4.68 (p=.456) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN VOCABULARY COMPREHENSION, DECLINED 31.94 (p<.001) PERCENTAGE POINTS IN LISTENING COMPREHENSION, DECLINED 11.58 (p=.030) PERCENTAGE POINTS IN READING COMPREHENSION, BUT ACHIEVED A 7.89 (p=.331) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN GRAMMAR, MECHANICS AND USAGE AND A 1.72 (p=.544) 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 3.95 (p=.563) PERCENTAGE POINTS IN MEASUREMENT AND GEOMETRY, BUT MADE A 19.21 (p=.002) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN NUMBER SENSE AND NUMERATION, AN 11.58 (p=.007) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN COMPUTATION AND OPERATIONS, A 28.95 (p<.001) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN DATA, STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY, A 14.47 (p=.077) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN PATTERNS, FUNCTIONS AND RELATIONS, A 17.58 (p<.001) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN PROBLEM SOLVING AND A 14.47 (p<.001) 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 AND PARENTS WERE ENCOURAGED TO CHECK OUT CURRICULUM FOR HOME DEPLOYMENT. A CLASS OF SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS WERE THE FOCUS GROUP 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.

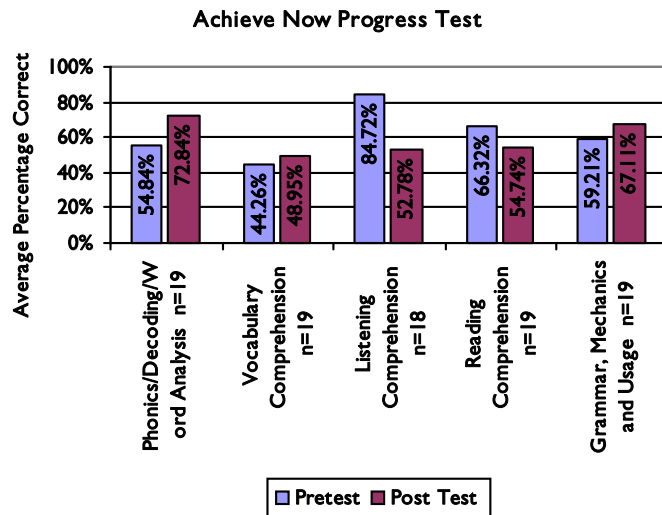
Gains posted by second-grade students in Language Arts and Mathematics

The selected second-grade students chosen to use PLATO Achieve Now™ at Bolivar Elementary School made an average increase of 1.72 percentage points in Total Reading/Language Arts, moving from an average score of 60.33% on the pretest to an average score of 62.06% on the post test. The second graders made a statistically significant average gain of 14.47 percentage points in Total Mathematics, moving from an average score of 65.26% on the pretest to an average score of 79.74% on the post test.



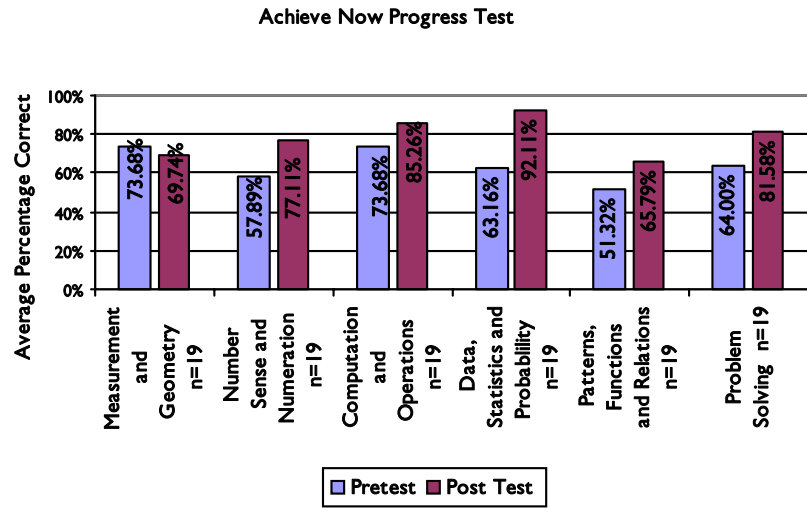
Second-grade students made gains in some Language Arts and Reading Skills

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO Achieve Now™ Progress Tests were compared, the second-grade students at Bolivar Elementary using PLATO Achieve Now curriculum made an average gain of 18.00 percentage points in Phonics, Decoding and Word Analysis, moving from an average score of 54.84% at pretest to an average score of 72.84% at post test. Students made an average gain of 4.68 percentage points in Vocabulary Comprehension, moving from an average score of 44.26% at pretest to an average score of 48.95% at post test. Students made an average increase of 7.89 percentage points in Grammar, Mechanics and Usage, moving from an average score of 59.21% at pretest to an average score of 67.11% at post test. Second-grade students declined an average of 31.94 percentage points in Listening Comprehension, moving from an average score of 84.72% at pretest to an average score of 52.78% at post test. Second-grade students declined an average of 11.58 percentage points in Reading Comprehension, moving from an average score of 66.32% at pretest to an average score of 54.74% at post test. Results for Phonics, Decoding and Word Analysis, Listening Comprehension, and Reading Comprehension are statistically significant.



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 declined an average of 3.95 percentage points in Measurement and Geometry, moving from an average score of 73.68% at pretest to an average score of 69.74% at post test. Second-grade made an average gain of 19.21 percentage points in Number Sense and Numeration, moving from an average score of 57.89% at pretest to an average score of 77.11% at post test. Second-grade made an average gain of 11.58 percentage points in Computation and Operations, moving from an average score of 73.68% at pretest to an average score of 85.26% at post test. Students made an average gain of 28.95 percentage points in Data, Statistics and Probability, moving from an average score of 63.16% at pretest to an average score of 92.11% at post test. Second-grade made an average gain of 14.47 percentage points in Patterns, Functions and Relations, moving from an average score of 51.32% at pretest to an average score of 65.79% at post test. Students made an average increase of 17.58 percentage points in Problem Solving, moving from an average score of 64.00% at pretest to an average score of 81.58% at post test. Results for Number Sense and Numeration, Computation and Operations, Data, Statistics and Probability, and Problem Solving are statistically significant.



Bolivar Elementary School

Bolivar 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 standard. 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. The faculty and staff of Bolivar Elementary School worked diligently to accomplish their mission: “To ensure that the children learn and achieve to their full potential.”

Bolivar Elementary serves students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade, but the 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. Bolivar Elementary used PLATO Achieve Now with one experimental second-grade classroom of twenty students with Reading and Mathematics as the target subjects for increased student achievement. Bolivar also wanted to have an increase in parents’ active involvement in their children’s learning through the implementation of home deployment of PLATO Achieve Now’s interactive curriculum. The school used Achieve Now to increase student accessibility and utilization of technology and to improve each teacher’s capacity to integrate technology into the curriculum.

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. The CDs were introduced in the classroom and were accompanied by home deployment involving both the CD and the corresponding PLATO Progress Check to offer formative progress assessment. Students used Achieve Now in the classroom two to three times each week for durations of between twenty and forty-five minutes each session. Family nights were held for the exchange of CDs.

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. Success with home deployment was evidenced by the number of families involved and by their participation in rotations of Achieve Now materials.

During the coming school year, Bolivar 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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