

# Clarksville Elementary School

MECKLENBURG COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
CLARKSVILLE, VIRGINIA

## SCHOOL PROFILE

456 STUDENTS, GRADES K-5  
50% Free/Reduced Lunch  
54% White  
46% African-American

## FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED IMPROVEMENT IN READING AND MATHEMATICS

DURING THE 2002-2003 SCHOOL YEAR, FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS USING PLATO ACHIEVE NOW POSTED AN AVERAGE GAIN OF 4.08 (p=.005) PERCENTAGE POINTS IN TOTAL READING/LANGUAGE ARTS AND AN AVERAGE GAIN OF 7.04 (p=.002) PERCENTAGE POINTS IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS, AS MEASURED BY THE ACHIEVE NOW PROGRESS TEST. SPECIFICALLY, IN THE READING/LANGUAGE ARTS SUB-CATEGORIES, THE STUDENTS POSTED AVERAGE PERCENTAGE POINT GAINS OF 1.00 (p=.595), 12.50 (p=.003), 2.79 (p=.263), 3.00 (p=.345), AND 3.33 (p=.388) IN THE RESPECTIVE AREAS OF PHONICS/DECODING/WORD ANALYSIS, VOCABULARY COMPEHENSION, READING COMPREHENSION, LITERARY COMPREHENSION, AND GRAMMAR, MECHANICS, AND USAGE. IN THE MATHEMATICS SUB-CATEGORIES, THE STUDENTS POSTED AVERAGE PERCENTAGE POINT GAINS OF 8.33 (p=.057), 12.50 (p=.069), 5.29 (p=.422), 5.21 (p=.135), 4.17 (p=.453), AND 8.12 (p=.057) IN MEASUREMENT AND GEOMETRY, NUMBER SENSE AND NUMERATION, COMPUTATION AND OPERATIONS, DATA, STATISTICS, AND PROBABILITY, PATTERNS, FUNCTIONS, AND RELATIONS, AND PROBLEM SOLVING.

CLARKSVILLE ELEMENTARY PURCHASED PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ WITH LOCAL FUNDS TO INCREASE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN READING/LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS AND TO IMPROVE SCORES ON THE VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING TESTS. THE IMPLEMENTATION BEGAN IN LATE FEBRUARY 2003 AND CONTINUED THROUGH MAY. THE IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION DESIGN TARGETED FIFTH GRADE TITLE I STUDENTS. STUDENTS USED PLATO ACHIEVE NOW IN THEIR CLASSROOM AND WERE ASSIGNED ONE LANGUAGE ARTS OR ONE MATHEMATICS ACHIEVE NOW ADVENTURE® CD PER WEEK FOR HOME USE. ASSESSMENT OF STUDENTS USING THE ACHIEVE NOW PROGRESS TESTS TOOK PLACE IN FEBRUARY 2003 AND MAY 2003. FAMILIES AND STUDENTS COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF PLATO ACHIEVE NOW ON STUDENT LEARNING AND MOTIVATION.

## PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ IMPLEMENTATION

- Classroom/Family Homework Model
- Grade 5, Title I, Began February 2003
- 100% Home Deployment
- Reading/Language Arts/Mathematics Focus

## RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

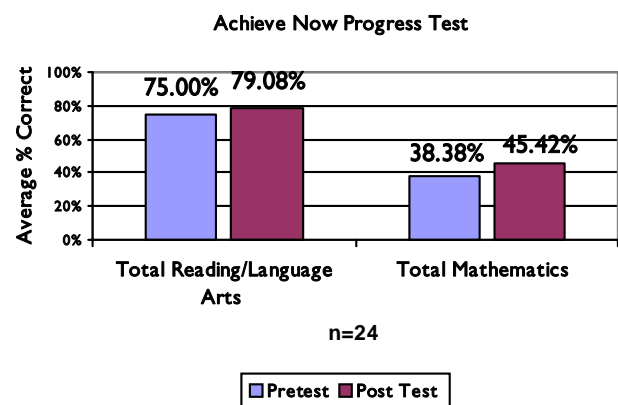
Achieve Now Progress Test

## RESEARCH TIME FRAME

2002-03 School Year

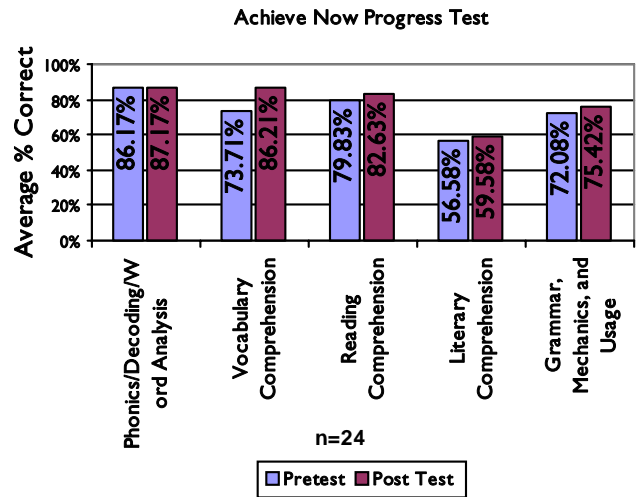
## Gains posted by fifth grade students in Total Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics

On the Achieve Now Progress Test, fifth grade students using PLATO Achieve Now demonstrated an average 4.08 percentage point gain in Total Reading/Language Arts and an average 7.04 percentage point gain in Total Mathematics, when pre- and post-test scores were compared. The results are statistically significant.



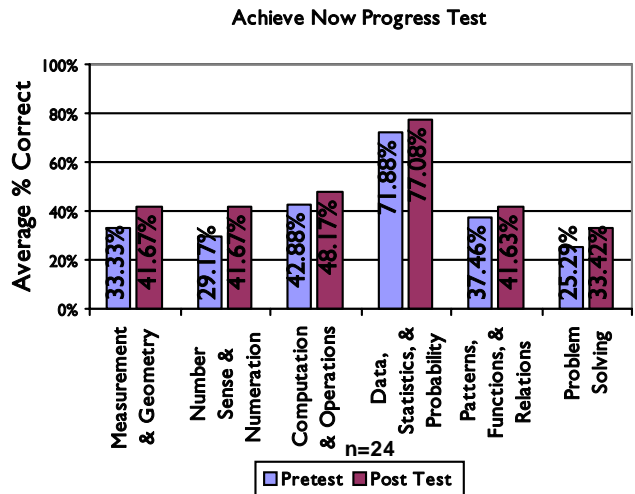
## Fifth grade students demonstrated gains in all reading/language arts sub-categories

When pre- and post-test scores were compared on the Achieve Now Progress Test, fifth grade students using PLATO Achieve Now posted average gains of 1.00 percentage point in Phonics/Decoding/Word Analysis, 12.50 percentage points in Vocabulary Comprehension, 2.79 percentage points in Reading Comprehension, 3.00 percentage points in Literary Comprehension, and 3.33 percentage points in Grammar, Mechanics, and Usage, when pre- and post-test scores were compared. The gain for Vocabulary Comprehension is statistically significant.



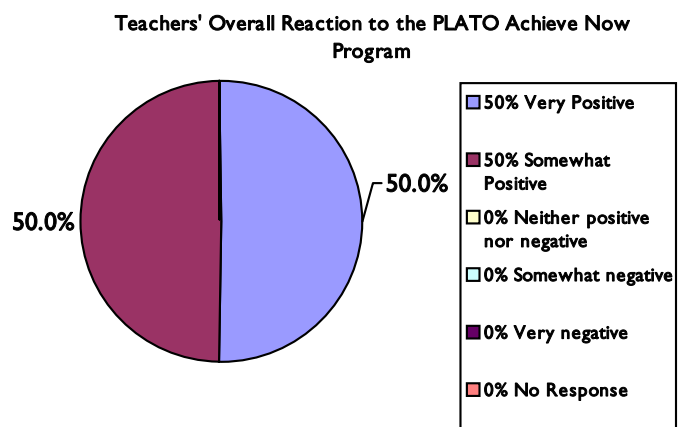
## Students showed gains in all mathematics sub-categories

When pre- and post-test scores were compared on the Achieve Now Progress Test, fifth grade students using PLATO Achieve Now realized average gains of 8.33 percentage points in Measurement and Geometry, 12.50 percentage points in Number Sense and Numeration, 5.29 percentage points in Computation and Operations, 5.21 percentage points in Data, Statistics, and Probability, 4.17 percentage points in Patterns, Functions, and Relations, and 8.12 percentage points in Problem Solving. None of the results are statistically significant.



## Teachers responded positively to PLATO's Achieve Now program

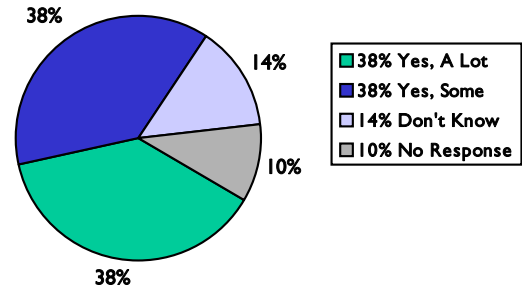
All four teachers who responded to the PLATO Achieve Now questionnaire reported having an overall, positive reaction to the Achieve Now program. Additionally, the teachers all recommended continued use of the program.



## Students believed PLATO Achieve Now made school more interesting

On the PLATO student questionnaire conducted at the end of the year, 76% of students felt PLATO Achieve Now made school more interesting. Thirty-eight percent felt it made school a lot more interesting, 38% felt it made school somewhat more interesting, 14% did not know if it made school more interesting, and 10% did not respond.

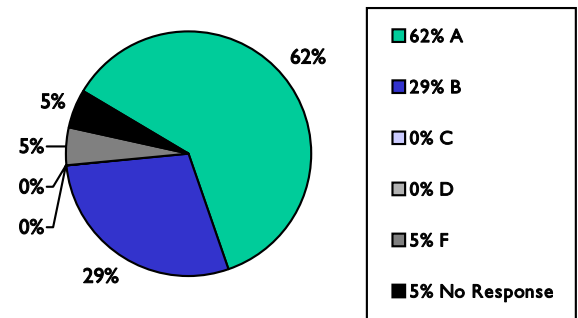
Student Opinions Regarding Whether PLATO Achieve Now Makes School More Interesting



## Students gave PLATO Achieve Now a letter grade

Students were asked to give the PLATO Achieve Now program a letter grade. Approximately 62% of students gave the program an "A," 29% a "B," 5% an "F," and 5% did not respond.

Families' Rating of Child's Overall Response to PLATO Achieve Now



## Clarksville Elementary School Program Background

Clarksville Elementary School is part of Mecklenburg County Public Schools and is located in rural south central Virginia. The mission of Mecklenburg County Public Schools is as follows: "Our mission is to provide opportunities for all students to develop to their full potential. In order to prepare students to meet the challenges of society, we must provide a foundation of knowledge while nurturing lifelong learning and critical thinking skills. We believe that the success of the mission requires a shared responsibility by students, school personnel, parents, and community."

Clarksville Elementary began implementing the standards-based PLATO Achieve Now™ curriculum in February 2003 with Title I fifth grade students in an effort to strengthen language arts and mathematics skills in preparation for the spring Virginia Standards of Learning Tests. In the classroom, the PLATO Achieve Now implementation enhanced the ability of the teacher to integrate technology, provide small group instruction, and foster independent growth in a learning center. In the home, the implementation helped to foster the home-school connection. In addition to the PLATO Achieve Now program, the schools use The PLATO Network® so families and students have access to interactive language arts and mathematics learning activities, as well as home learning resources.

Professional development was provided throughout the second semester of the 2002-03 school year, and included program orientation for fifth grade teachers and alignment of program materials to the Mecklenburg County Fifth Grade Curriculum. The teachers used PLATO Achieve Now to reinforce curriculum content in

the classroom and at home. Students took home one language arts and one mathematics Achieve Now Adventures® CD every week and were encouraged to explore the learning activities contained on that CD at least three times per week. In support of Mecklenburg County's commitment to family involvement, two family nights were held during the second semester of 2003 to provide time for parents and students to interact with PLATO Achieve Now programs. Opportunities were also provided to familiarize families with the goals of the Achieve Now program as well as to celebrate student successes.

Results of the implementation were measured by pre- and post-test administrations of the Achieve Now Progress Tests and family and student surveys. Future plans for the PLATO Achieve Now program include continuing to provide support to classroom teachers in aligning program materials to individual needs, modeling classroom lessons, expanding the use of PLATO Achieve Now resources, and integrating the program with The PLATO Network and PLATO eduTest Assessment™ in the classroom. Through PLATO, access to technology has been made available in an equitable manner for all Title I fifth grade students. Furthermore, the PLATO Achieve Now program involved families in their children's education, linked families to the school, and motivated student learning at school and at home.



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