

Camden City School District

EAST CAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL, PYNE POYNT FAMILY SCHOOL, FOREST HILL ELEMENTARY, COOPER B. HATCH MIDDLE SCHOOL
CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY.

STUDENTS MAKE GAINS IN READING, LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS

CAMDEN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT CHOSE PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW AND THE PLATO® LITERACY LIBRARY TO OFFER TO PARENTS AS PART OF A SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES KINDERGARTEN THROUGH SIX. STUDENTS ATTENDING THE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM MADE SOME GAINS IN READING, LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS.

WHEN PRE-AND POST-TEST SCORES OF THE PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW PROGRESS TESTS WERE COMPARED, ON AVERAGE THE ONLY KINDERGARTEN STUDENT WITH VALID PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES DECLINED 17 PERCENTAGE POINTS, FIRST GRADE MADE A 15 (p=.188) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN, FIFTH GRADE DECLINED 4 (p=.038) PERCENTAGE POINTS AND SIXTH GRADE MADE A LESS THAN 1 (p=.949) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN TOTAL READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS. RESULTS WERE SIGNIFICANT FOR FIFTH GRADE ONLY. SIGNIFICANCE COULD NOT BE COMPUTED FOR KINDERGARTEN DUE TO THE SMALL SAMPLE SIZE.

IN TERMS OF ACTUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN TOTAL READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS SCORES, THE ONLY KINDERGARTEN STUDENT DECLINED 22%, FIRST GRADE MADE A 37% INCREASE, FIFTH GRADE DECLINED 11% AND SIXTH GRADE MADE A 9% INCREASE IN TOTAL READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS SCORE.

WHEN PRE-AND POST-TEST SCORES OF THE PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW MATHEMATICS PROGRESS TESTS WERE COMPARED, FOURTH GRADE MADE A 5 (p=.830) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN, THE ONLY FIFTH GRADE STUDENT WITH VALID PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES MADE A 7 PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN AND THE ONLY SIXTH-GRADE STUDENT WITH VALID PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES DECLINED 10 PERCENTAGE POINTS IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS. RESULTS WERE NOT SIGNIFICANT FOR FOURTH GRADE AND SIGNIFICANCE COULD NOT BE COMPUTED FOR FIFTH OR SIXTH GRADE DUE TO THE SMALL SAMPLE SIZE.

IN TERMS OF ACTUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS SCORES, FOURTH GRADE MADE A 42% INCREASE, THE ONE FIFTH GRADE STUDENT WITH VALID PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES MADE A 33% INCREASE AND THE ONE SIXTH-GRADE STUDENT WITH VALID PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES DECLINED 25% 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 52 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION THROUGH THE SES IMPLEMENTATION USING PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW. FOR STUDENTS WITH AN 80% OR HIGHER ATTENDANCE RATE THE ONLY KINDERGARTEN STUDENT WITH VALID PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES DECLINED 17 PERCENTAGE POINTS, FIRST GRADE MADE A 15 (p=.188) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN AND SIXTH GRADE DECLINED 4 (p=.536) PERCENTAGE POINTS IN TOTAL READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS WHEN PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES WERE COMPARED. RESULTS WERE NOT SIGNIFICANT. NO PARTICIPATING STUDENTS IN GRADES FOUR OR FIVE HAD AN ATTENDANCE RATE OF 80% OR HIGHER.

IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGE CHANGE, FOR STUDENTS WITH AN 80% OR HIGHER ATTENDANCE RATE, THE ONLY KINDERGARTEN STUDENT WITH VALID PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES DECLINED 22%, ON AVERAGE FIRST GRADE MADE A 37% INCREASE AND SIXTH GRADE DECLINED LESS THAN 1% IN TOTAL READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS SCORE.

AN ANALYSIS FOR TOTAL MATHEMATICS SCORES BASED ON ATTENDANCE WAS NOT PERFORMED FOR GRADES FOUR AND FIVE BECAUSE NEITHER GRADE LEVEL HAD AN ATTENDANCE OF 80% OR HIGHER. THE ONLY SIXTH-GRADE STUDENT WITH VALID PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES IN MATHEMATICS, DID NOT ATTEND 80% OR MORE OF THE PROGRAM SESSIONS.

STUDENTS WERE SELECTED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SES PROGRAM IN THE CAMDEN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BASED ON NEW JERSEY STATE TEST SCORES, SCHOOL RECOMMENDATION AND PARENT APPLICATION. STUDENTS ATTENDED THE PROGRAM THREE DAYS EACH WEEK. STUDENTS WERE ASSESSED USING THE PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW PROGRESS TESTS AND PROGRAM SUCCESS WAS MEASURED BY A COMPARISON OF PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES. READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS SCORES FOR SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE AND

SCHOOL PROFILE

EAST CAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL
698 STUDENTS GRADES 5-8
99% Free/Reduced Price Lunch
50% Hispanic
45% African American
5% Asian
<1% White

FOREST HILL ELEMENTARY
542 STUDENTS GRADES PK-5
83% Free/Reduced Price Lunch
77% African American
22% Hispanic
<1% Asian
<1% White

COOPER B. HATCH MIDDLE
549 STUDENTS GRADES 6-8
87% Free/Reduced Price Lunch
78% African American
21% Hispanic
1% White

PYNE POYNT FAMILY SCHOOL
550 STUDENTS GRADES 6-8
92% Free/Reduced Price Lunch
56% Hispanic
43% African American
1% White
<1% Asian

PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW™ IMPLEMENTATION

Grades K-6
Supplemental Educational Services Implementation
After-School Tutorial Model
Reading/Language Arts/Mathematics Focus

RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

PLATO® PROGRESS TEST

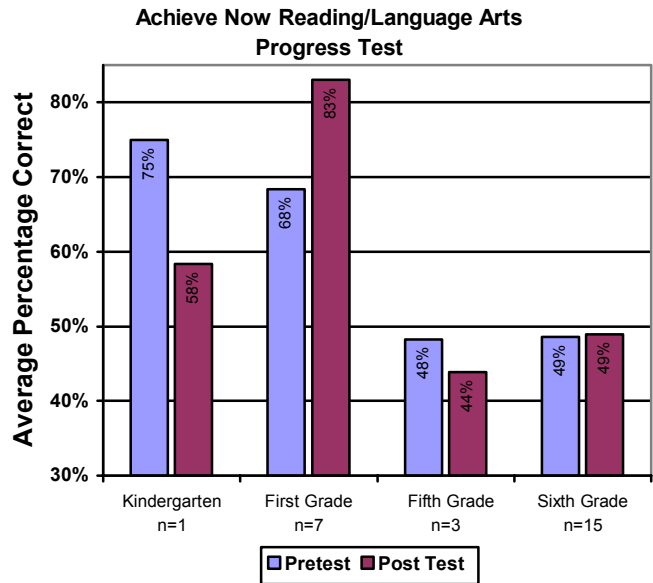
RESEARCH TIME FRAME

2004-05 School Year

MATHEMATICS SCORES FOR KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE WERE NOT AVAILABLE FOR THIS REPORT.

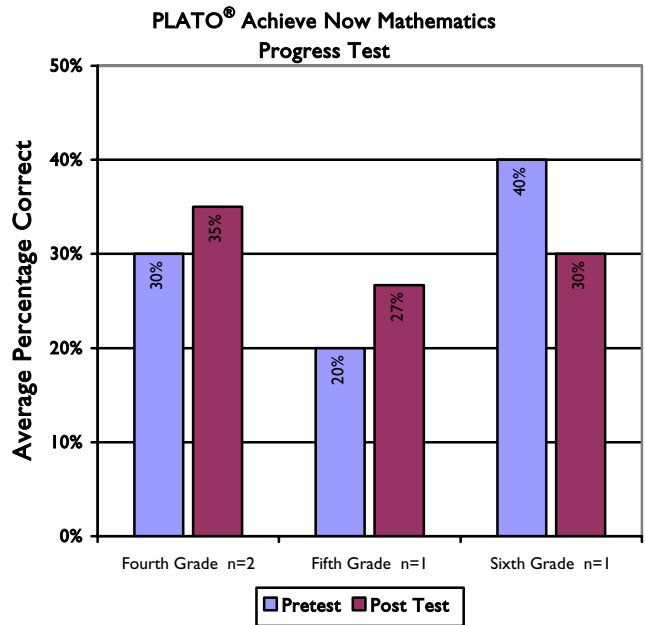
First- and sixth-grade students made gains in Total Reading and Language Arts

When students participating in the SES implementation offered by Camden City School District using PLATO® Achieve Now were assessed with the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test, on average the one kindergarten student with valid pre- and post-test scores declined 17 percentage points, first-grade students made a 15 (p=.188) percentage point gain, students in grade five declined 4 (p=.038) percentage points and students in grade six made a less than 1 (p=.949) percentage point gain in Total Reading and Language Arts when pre- and post-test scores were compared. Fifth-grade results were significant. Results were not significant for first or sixth grades and significance for kindergarten could not be computed due to small sample size. The average attendances were 52 hours for kindergarten, 47 hours for first grade, 40 hours for fifth grade and 50 hours for sixth grade.



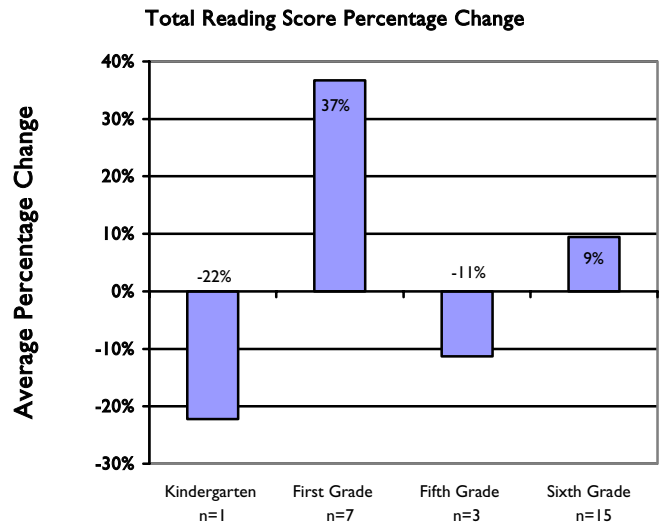
Fourth- and fifth-grade students made gains in Total Mathematics

When students participating in the SES implementation offered by Camden City School District using PLATO® Achieve Now were assessed with the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test, on average students in grade four made a 5 (p=.830) percentage point gain, the one fifth-grade student with valid pre- and post-test scores made a 7 percentage point gain and the only sixth-grade student with valid pre- and post-test scores declined 10 percentage points in Total Mathematics when pre- and post-test scores were compared. Fourth-grade results were not significant, and significance for fifth and sixth grades could not be figured because of the small sample size. The average attendances were 38 hours for fourth grade, 39 hours for fifth grade and 42 hours for sixth grade.



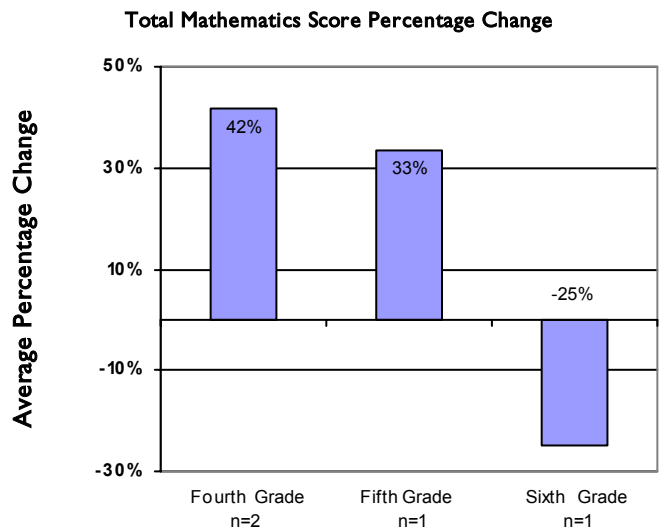
Students make percentage gains in Total Reading scores

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test for students participating in the SES implementation offered by Camden City School District were compared, on average the only kindergarten student with valid pre- and post-test scores declined 22%, first-grade students increased 37%, fifth-grade students declined 11% and sixth-grade students increased 9% in Total Reading and Language Arts scores.



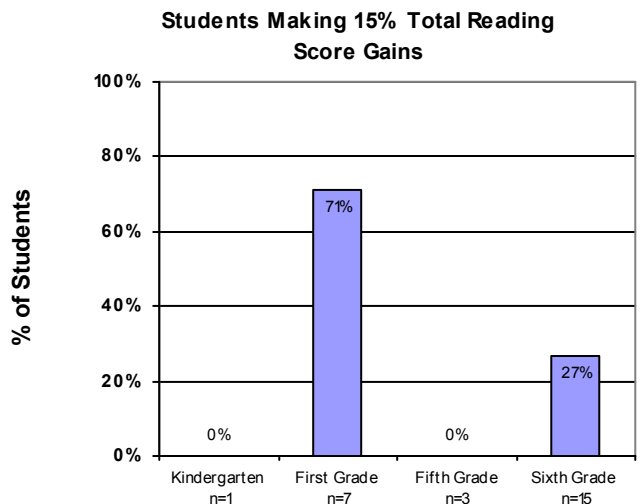
Students make percentage gains in Total Mathematics scores

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test for students participating in the SES implementation offered by Camden City School District were compared, on average students in fourth grade made a 42% increase, and the only student in fifth grade with valid pre- and post-test scores made a 33% increase and the only student in sixth grade with valid pre- and post-test scores declined 25% in Total Mathematics scores.



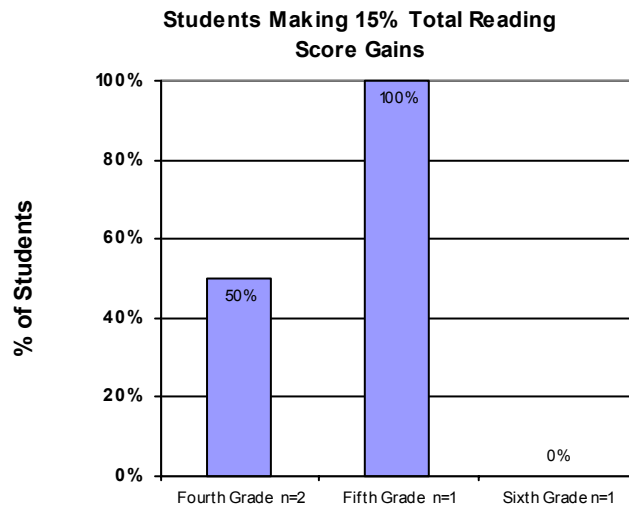
First-grade students make a 15% gain in Total Reading scores

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test for students participating in the SES implementation offered by Camden City School District were compared, the only kindergarten student with valid pre- and post-test scores did not make a 15% increase in Total Reading scores, while 71% of the in first-grade students, 0% of the fifth-grade students and 27% of the sixth-grade students made a 15% or higher gain in Total Reading Scores. The average attendances were 52 hours for kindergarten, 47 hours for first grade, 40 hours for fifth grade and 50 hours for sixth grade.



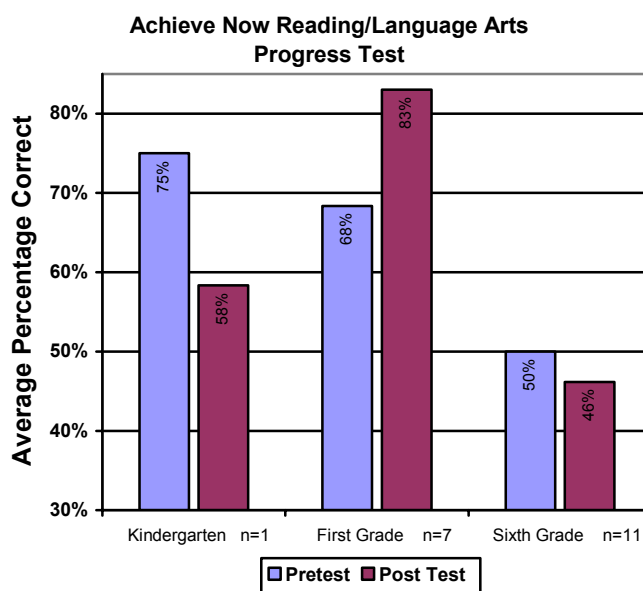
Fourth- and fifth-grade students make 15% gains in Total Mathematics scores

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test for students participating in the SES implementation offered by Camden City School District were compared, the only sixth-grade student (0%) with valid pre- and post-test scores did not make a 15% increase in Total Mathematics scores, while the only fifth-grade student (100%) with valid pre- and post-test scores did make a 15% gain on Total Mathematics Score. Of the fourth-grade students with valid pre- and post-test scores, 50% made a gain of 15% or higher in Total Mathematics Score. The average attendances were 38 hours for fourth grade, 39 hours for fifth grade and 42 hours for sixth grade.



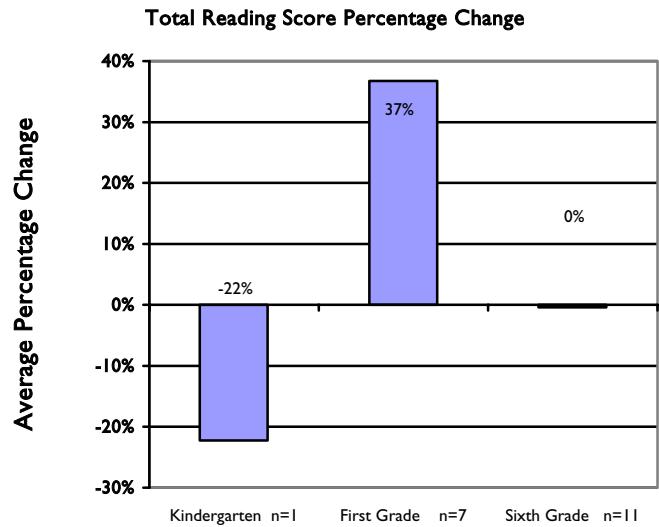
First-grade students with 80% attendance made gains in Total Reading and Language Arts

Students participating in the SES implementation in the Camden City School District were offered 52 hours of instruction using PLATO® Achieve Now. Students had to attend a minimum of 41.6 hours to demonstrate an attendance rate of 80%. When students who had an attendance rate of 80% or higher were assessed with the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test, on average the one kindergarten student with valid pre- and post-test scores declined 17 percentage points, first-grade students made a 15 (p=.188) percentage point gain and students in grade six declined 4 (p=.536) percentage points in Total Reading and Language Arts when pre- and post-test scores were compared. Results were not significant for first or sixth grade and significance for kindergarten could not be computed due to the small sample size. The average attendances were 52 hours for kindergarten, 47 hours for first grade and 54 hours for sixth grade.



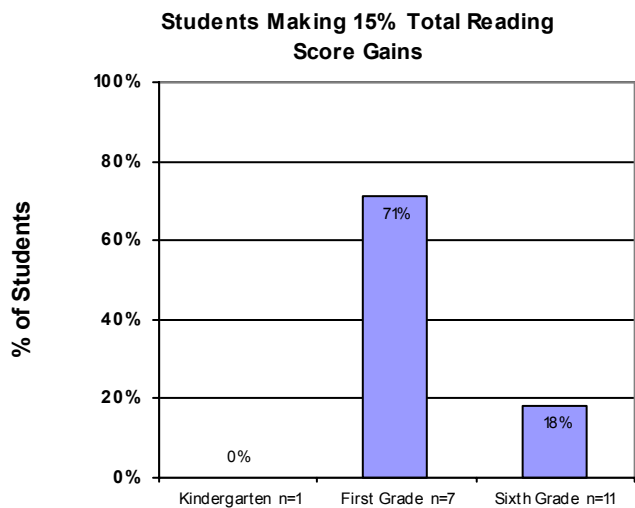
First-grade students with 80% attendance make percentage gains in Total Reading scores

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test for students with 80% attendance in the SES implementation offered by Camden City School District were compared, on average the only kindergarten student with valid pre- and post-test scores declined 22%, first-grade students increased 37% and sixth-grade students declined less than 1% in Total Reading and Language Arts scores.



Students with 80% attendance make a 15% gain in Total Reading scores

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test for students with 80% attendance in the SES implementation offered by Camden City School District were compared, the only kindergarten student (0%) with valid pre- and post-test scores did not make a 15% increase in Total Reading scores, while 71% of the first-grade students and 18% of the sixth-grade students made a 15% or higher gain in Total Reading Scores. The average attendances were 52 hours for kindergarten, 47 hours for first grade and 54 hours for sixth grade.



Camden City School District Background

The Camden City School District is driven “to pursue academic excellence through the application of models under current New Jersey Department of Education initiatives that have been proven successful and to ensure educational equity and provide the necessary resources, technology, personnel, and instructional programs to enhance student achievement.” With these goals 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 four of the district’s schools, East Camden Middle School, Forest Hill Elementary School, Cooper B. Hatch Middle School and Pyne Poynt Family School, parents chose PLATO® Achieve Now and the PLATO® Literacy Library 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® Achieve Now began in February 2005. The program employed tutors hired by PLATO® Learning, Inc. and supervised by the participating schools. Students in grades one through eight were targeted for participation. Students were selected for participation as a result of state test scores, school recommendation as well as individual parent application.

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 in the use of learning paths as guides for instruction and in how to conduct both guided practice and independent practice sessions. The PLATO® Educational Consultant also instructed the tutors on integrating the PLATO® Literacy Library into the program.

After students were assessed using the PLATO® Achieve Now Pretests, 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 three days each week. 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 and PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Checks. 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. Regular communication was made each week with the parents concerning student performance and progress.

Choosing PLATO® Achieve Now for use as the SES skill-and-content model ensured replicable results and offered an innovative research based curriculum to further support the Camden City School District’s efforts to increase student achievement and to encourage those students to strive for academic excellence.



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

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