

Carver Middle School

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

SCHOOL PROFILE

537 STUDENTS GRADES 4-8
98.4 Free/Reduced Lunch
99.9% African American
0.1% White

PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ IMPLEMENTATION

Grade Six Implementation
Reading/Language Arts and
Mathematics Focus
Supplemental Educational Services
Implementation
After-School Tutorial Model

RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

Achieve Now Progress Test

RESEARCH TIME FRAME

October - April
2004-2005 School Year

STUDENTS IN GRADE SIX MAKE GAINS IN READING, LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS

CARVER MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOSE PLATO ACHIEVE NOW TO USE AS PART OF A SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (SES) AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS IN GRADE SIX. STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SES IMPLEMENTATION MADE GAINS IN TOTAL READING, LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS.

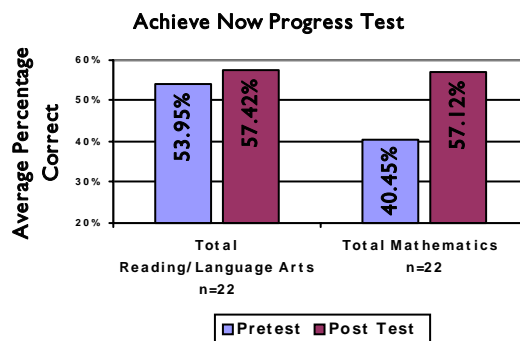
WHEN PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES OF THE PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW PROGRESS TEST WERE COMPARED, ON AVERAGE SIXTH-GRADE STUDENTS MADE A 3.47 (p=.409) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN TOTAL READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS SCORES AND A 16.67 (p=.006) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS SCORES. IN TERMS OF TOTAL PERCENTAGE GAIN, SIXTH-GRADE STUDENTS WHO HAD BOTH PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES MADE A 9.50% INCREASE IN TOTAL READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS PROFICIENCY AND A 56.17% INCREASE IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS PROFICIENCY WHEN BOTH PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES WERE COMPARED.

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.

SIXTH-GRADE STUDENTS ATTENDED THE SES PROGRAM FOR A POSSIBLE 67.84 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION THROUGH THE SES IMPLEMENTATION USING PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW INTERACTIVE CURRICULUM. STUDENTS WITH AN 80% OR HIGHER ATTENDANCE RATE MADE A 3.38 (p= .442) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN TOTAL READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS AND A 16.67 (p=.006) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS WHEN PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES WERE COMPARED. IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGE CHANGE, STUDENTS WITH AN 80% OR HIGHER ATTENDANCE RATE MADE AN AVERAGE 9.57% INCREASE IN TOTAL READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS PROFICIENCY SCORES AND AN AVERAGE 56.17% INCREASE IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS PROFICIENCY SCORES.

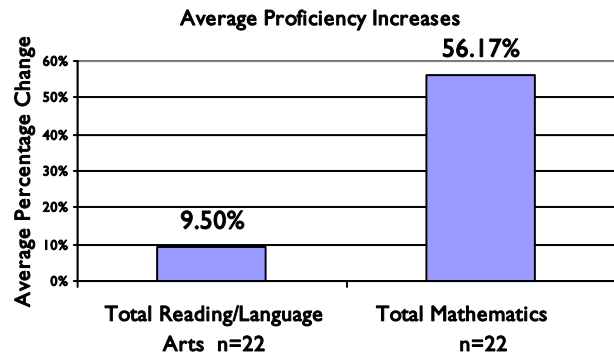
Carver Middle students made gains in Total Language Arts and Total Mathematics scores

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test were compared, sixth-grade students at Carver Middle made a 3.47 (p=.409) percentage point gain moving from a mean score of 53.95% on the pretest to a mean score of 57.42% at post test. Sixth-grade students also made a significant 16.67 (p=.006) percentage point gain in Mathematics moving from a mean score of 40.45% on the pretest to a mean score of 57.12% at post test.



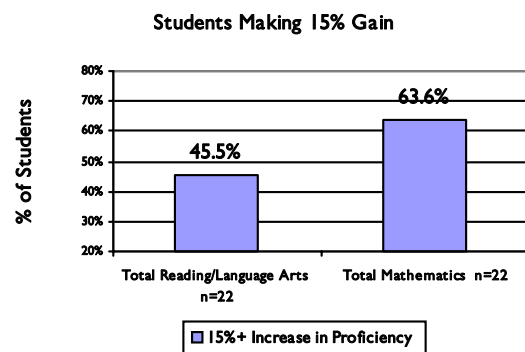
Students make percentage increases in both Reading and Language Arts and Mathematics

When PLATO Achieve Now pre- and post-test scores were compared, the sixth-grade students participating in the SES Program at Carver Middle School made an average increase of 9.50% in their Total Reading and Language Arts proficiency score and an average increase of 56.17% in the Total Mathematics proficiency score. The average attendance hours for those students with both pre- and post-test scores in Reading and Language Arts was 63.05 hours and for those students with both pre- and post-test scores in Mathematics was 65.03 hours.



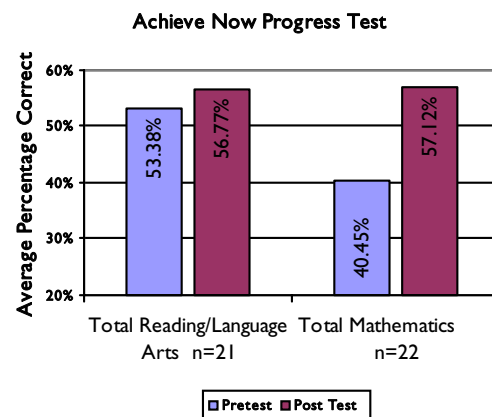
Some students make 15% gain in proficiency scores

Of the sixth-grade students at Carver Middle School who had both pre- and post-test scores from the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test, 45.5% made a 15% or more increase in Total Reading and Language Arts proficiency scores and 63.6% made a 15% or more increase in Total Mathematics proficiency scores.



Students with 80% attendance rate make gains in Reading and Language Arts and Mathematics

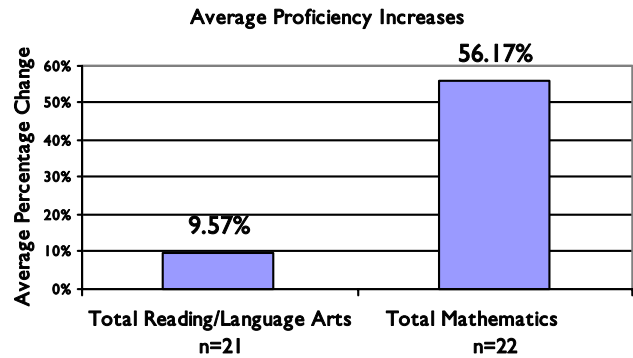
Sixth-grade students at Carver Middle were offered a total of 67.84 hours of instruction in the SES program. For students to have an 80% or higher attendance rate, they must have attended for a minimum of 54.27 hours. When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO Achieve Now Progress Test were compared, on average the sixth-grade students who had attendance rates of 80% or more made a 3.38 (p=.442) percentage point in gain in Total Reading and Language Arts score moving from a mean score of 53.38% on the pretest to a mean score of 56.77% at post test. On average students also made a significant 16.67 (p=.006) percentage point gain in Mathematics, moving from a mean score of



40.45% on the pretest to a mean score of 57.12% at post test. The average attendance for those students with both pre- and post-test scores in Reading and Language Arts was 64.90 hours, and the average attendance for those students with both pre- and post-test scores in Mathematics was 65.03 hours.

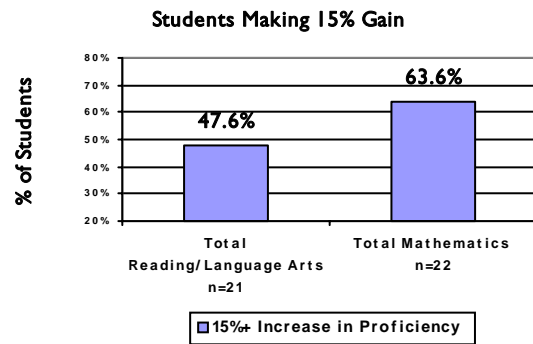
Students with 80% attendance rate make percentage increases in both Reading and Language Arts and Mathematics

When PLATO Achieve Now pre- and post-test scores were compared, the students participating in the SES Program at Carver Middle School who had an attendance rate of 80% (54.27+ hours) or more made an average increase of 9.57% in Total Reading and Language Arts proficiency score and an average increase of 56.17% in Total Mathematics proficiency score. The average attendance hours for those students with both pre- and post-test scores in Reading and Language Arts was 64.90 hours and for those students with both pre- and post-test scores in Mathematics was 65.03 hours.



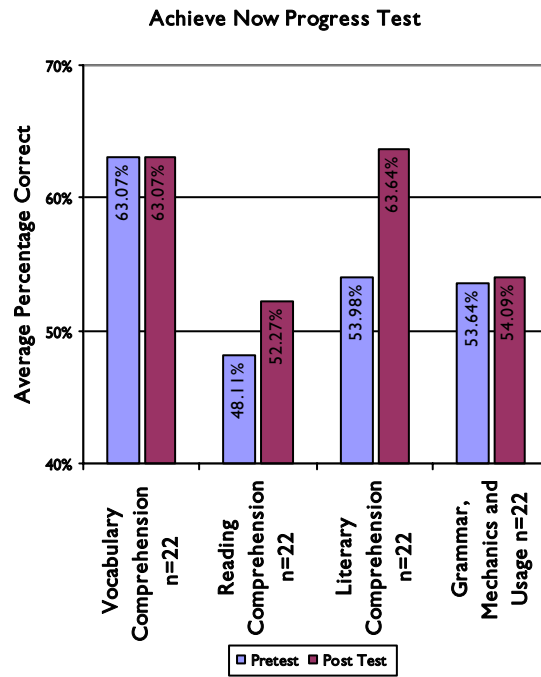
Students with 80% attendance rate make 15% gain in proficiency scores

When pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO Achieve Now Progress Test were compared, on average, 47.6% of the Carver Middle School sixth-grade students participating in the SES program with attendance rates of 80% (54.27+ hours) made a 15% or more increase in Total Reading proficiency scores and 63.6% made a 15% or more increase in Total Mathematics proficiency scores.



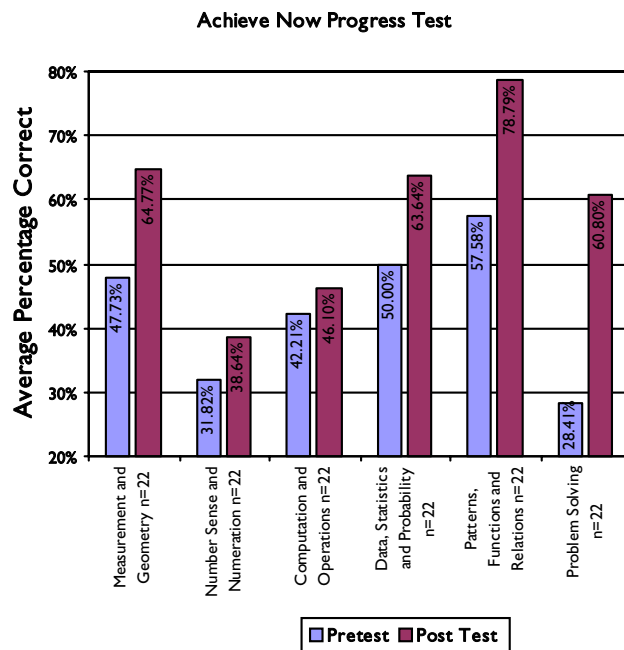
Sixth-grade students make gains in three Reading and Language Arts sub-categories

The sixth-grade students participating in the SES program at Carver Middle made gains in three Reading and Language Arts sub-categories. On average, these students made no percentage point gain ($p=1.00$) in Vocabulary Comprehension showing a mean score of 63.07% on both the pre- and post test. On average, these sixth grade students did make a 4.17 ($p=.441$) percentage point gain in Reading Comprehension moving from a mean score of 48.11% on the pretest to a mean score of 52.27% at post test. These students also made an average 9.66 ($p=.239$) percentage point gain in Literary Comprehension moving from a mean score of 53.98% on the pretest to a mean score of 63.64% at post test. These sixth-grade students made an average 0.45 ($p=.939$) percentage point gain in Grammar, Mechanics and Usage moving from a mean score of 53.64% on the pretest to a mean score of 54.09% at post test. Results were not statistically significant for any sub-category.



Sixth-grade students make gains in six Mathematics sub-categories

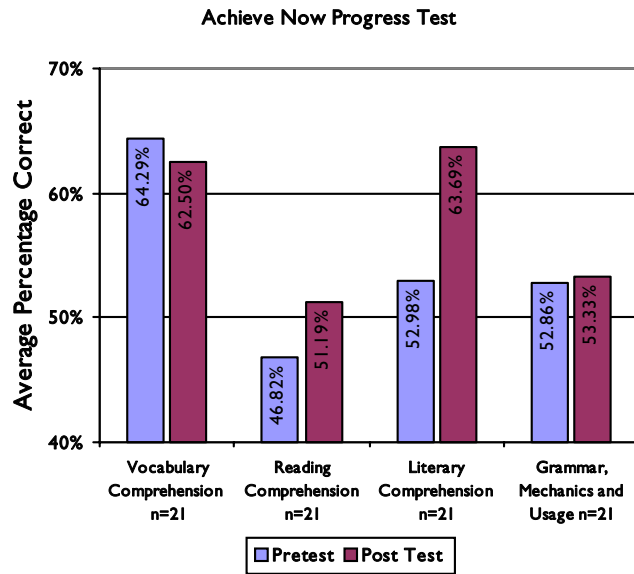
The sixth-grade students participating in the SES program at Carver Middle made gains in six Mathematics sub-categories. On average these students made a significant 17.05 ($p=.036$) percentage point gain in Measurement and Geometry moving from a mean score of 47.73% on the pretest to a mean score of 64.77% at posttest. These sixth-grade students did make an average 6.82 ($p=.418$) percentage point gain in Number Sense and Numeration moving from a mean score of 31.82% on the pretest to a mean score of 38.64% at post test. These students also made an average 3.90 ($p=.565$) percentage point gain in Computation and Operations moving from a mean score of 42.21% on the pretest to a mean score of 46.10% at post test. On average these sixth-grade students made a 13.64 ($p=.174$) percentage point gain in Data, Statistics and Probability moving from a mean score of 50.00% on the pretest to a mean score of 63.64% at post test. The sixth-grade students made a significant 21.21 ($p=.010$) percentage point gain in Patterns, Functions and Relations moving from a mean score of 57.58% on the pretest to a mean score of 78.79% at post test. These sixth-grade students made a significant



32.39 (p<.001) percentage point gain in Problem Solving moving from a mean score of 28.41% on the pretest to a mean score of 60.80% at post test.

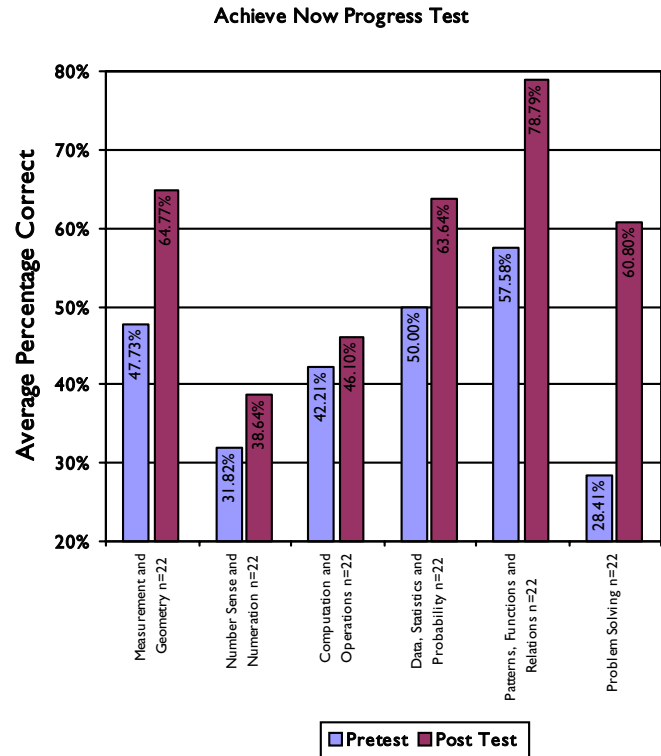
Sixth grade students with 80% or higher attendance rate make gains in three Reading and Language Arts sub-categories

The sixth grade students who participated in the SES program at Carver Middle School were offered a total of 67.84 hours of total instruction. In order for students to demonstrate an 80% attendance rate, they had to attend a minimum of 54.27 hours. The sixth-grade students who had an 80% or higher attendance rate made gains in three Reading and Language Arts sub-categories. These students made a 1.79 (p=.738) percentage point decline in Vocabulary Comprehension dropping from a mean score of 64.29% on the pretest to a mean score of 62.50% at post test. These sixth-grade students made a 4.37 (p=.442) in Reading Comprehension moving from a mean score of 46.82% on the pretest to a mean score of 51.19% at post test. These students also made a 10.71 (p=.211) percentage point gain in Literary Comprehension moving from a mean score of 52.98% on the pretest to a mean score of 63.69% at post test. These sixth-grade students made a 0.48 (p=.939) percentage point gain in Grammar, Mechanics and Usage moving from a mean score of 52.86% on the pretest to a mean score of 53.33% at post test. Results were not statistically significant for any sub-category.



Sixth-grade students with 80% or higher attendance rate make gains in six Mathematics sub-categories

The sixth-grade students participating in the SES program at Carver Middle made gains in six Mathematics sub-categories. These students made a significant 17.05 ($p=.036$) percentage point gain in Measurement and Geometry moving from a mean score of 47.73% on the pretest to a mean score of 64.77% at posttest. These sixth-grade students did make a 6.82 ($p=.418$) percentage point gain in Number Sense and Numeration moving from a mean score of 31.82% on the pretest to a mean score of 38.64% at post test. These students also made an average 3.90 ($p=.565$) percentage point gain in Computation and Operations moving from a mean score of 42.21% on the pretest to a mean score of 46.10% at post test. These sixth-grade students made an average 13.64 ($p=.174$) percentage point gain in Data, Statistics and Probability moving from a mean score of 50.00% on the pretest to a mean score of 63.64% at post test. These sixth-grade students made an average 21.21 ($p=.010$) percentage point gain in Patterns, Functions and Relations moving from a mean score of 57.58% on the pretest to a mean score of 78.79% at post test. These sixth-grade students made a significant 32.39 ($p<.001$) percentage point gain in Problem Solving moving from a mean score of 28.41% on the pretest to a mean score of 60.80% at post test. Results were statistically significant for Measurement and Geometry, Patterns, Functions and Relations and Problem Solving.



Carver Middle School Background

Carver Middle School was one of thirteen schools in the Chicago Public School District using PLATO® Achieve Now through the Supplemental Educational Service Program. Carver Middle School is located in Chicago, Illinois and is set in an urban community. The school serves students in kindergarten through grade eight with 98.4% receiving free or reduced lunch.

Carver Middle School is guided by the philosophy of a balanced approach to teaching and learning consistent with Illinois Standards. Implementation of the PLATO® Achieve Now curriculum-based program at Carver

Middle School began in October of 2004 and was funded through the Title I Supplemental Educational Services Program. The goal is to involve families in choosing the tutorial program that would increase their student's achievement in the areas of Reading, Language Arts and Mathematics and to motivate students to use the standards-based curriculum program in an after-school tutorial setting. Tutors hired by PLATO® Learning and supervised by Carver Middle School used PLATO® Achieve Now to augment whole group and direct instruction and to support learning center strategies. Hands-on activities using PLATO Achieve Now curriculum enabled tutors to identify and select appropriate activities and materials for student use in the program.

Parents were continuously informed about student learning and assessment practices through Individual Tutorial Plans and bi-monthly Parent Progress Reports.

Multiple assessments used to monitor student progress throughout the program included PLATO Achieve Now Progress Tests, PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Checks, teacher observations and teacher-student activity related discussions.

During the implementation, the school used PLATO® Achieve Now in the after-school tutorial program with targeted students in grade six. Students attended the SES after-school program for four hours of instruction per week for a total of 67 hours of instruction and focused on instructional objectives identified on individual and group learning paths. Students worked individually or in pairs to complete specific activities on PLATO® Achieve Now CDs.

Choosing PLATO® Achieve Now as the SES skill and content model ensured replicable results and offered an innovative research based curriculum to further support Carver Middle School's efforts to increase student achievement.



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

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