

LeRoy Elementary School

PINE RIVER AREA SCHOOLS
LEROY, MICHIGAN.

STUDENTS MAKE STRONG GAINS IN READING, LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS

LEROY ELEMENTARY PURCHASED PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW, THE PLATO® WEB LEARNING NETWORK, PLATO® eduTEST ASSESSMENT AND THE PLATO® READING CENTER WITH FUNDS FROM A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL REFORM (CSR) GRANT TO IMPROVE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE IN READING, LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD.

DURING THE 2004-2005 SCHOOL YEAR STUDENTS AT LEROY ELEMENTARY USING PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW MADE GAINS IN READING, LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS. FIRST-GRADE STUDENTS MADE AN AVERAGE 15 (p<.001) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN, SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS MADE AN AVERAGE 3 (p=.238) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN AND THIRD-GRADE STUDENTS MADE AN AVERAGE 15 (p<.001) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN WHEN PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES WERE COMPARED.

WHEN PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW MATHEMATICS PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES WERE COMPARED, ON AVERAGE FIRST-GRADE STUDENTS MADE A 16 (p<.001) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN, SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS MADE A 17 (p<.001) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN AND THIRD-GRADE STUDENTS MADE A 20 (p<.001) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN.

IN TERMS OF ACTUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE, FIRST-GRADE STUDENTS MADE AN AVERAGE 29% INCREASE, SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS MADE AN AVERAGE 7% INCREASE AND THIRD-GRADE STUDENTS MADE AN AVERAGE 31% PERCENT INCREASE IN TOTAL READING PROFICIENCY WHEN PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES WERE COMPARED. IN TOTAL MATHEMATICS PROFICIENCY, FIRST-GRADE STUDENTS MADE AN AVERAGE 31% INCREASE, SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS MADE AN AVERAGE 35% INCREASE AND THIRD- GRADE STUDENTS MADE AN AVERAGE 52% INCREASE WHEN PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES WERE COMPARED.

THE THIRD-GRADE STUDENTS WHO WERE ASSESSED USING PLATO® eduTEST ASSESSMENT MADE AN AVERAGE 7 (p=.004) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN LANGUAGE ARTS AND AN AVERAGE 17 (p<.001) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN MATHEMATICS. FOURTH-GRADE STUDENTS MADE AN AVERAGE 7 (p=.043) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN READING AND AN AVERAGE 10 (p<.001) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN MATHEMATICS. FIFTH-GRADE STUDENTS MADE AN AVERAGE 1 (p=.816) PERCENTAGE POINT DECLINE IN READING AND AN AVERAGE 5 (p=.008) PERCENTAGE POINT GAIN IN MATHEMATICS.

IN TERMS OF ACTUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE WHEN ASSESSED WITH PLATO® eduTEST ASSESSMENT, THIRD-GRADE STUDENTS MADE AVERAGE PROFICIENCY INCREASES OF 19% IN LANGUAGE ARTS AND 50% IN MATHEMATICS. FOURTH-GRADE STUDENTS MADE AVERAGE PROFICIENCY INCREASES OF 40% IN READING AND 25% IN MATHEMATICS. FIFTH-GRADE STUDENTS MADE AVERAGE PROFICIENCY INCREASES OF 14% IN BOTH READING AND MATHEMATICS.

THE INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION AT LEROY ELEMENTARY WAS IN THE FALL OF 2003 AND TARGETED STUDENTS IN GRADES 2, 3 AND 4 FOR IMPROVEMENT. DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF CSR IMPLEMENTATION THE SCHOOL SET A 10% INCREASE IN PROFICIENCY AS THE GOAL IN THE READING AND MATHEMATICS SKILL AREAS. DURING THE SECOND YEAR OF CSR, THE SCHOOL GOAL WAS A 10% PROFICIENCY INCREASE IN READING AND MATHEMATICS SKILL AREAS. INSTRUCTION WAS ALIGNED TO THE MICHIGAN EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (MEAP) STANDARDS AND WAS CONTINUALLY MONITORED TO DIFFERENTIATE INSTRUCTION BASED IN INDIVIDUAL STUDENT NEED.

PROGRAM SUCCESS WAS MEASURED BY A COMPARISON OF STUDENT SCORES ON THE PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW PROGRESS TESTS. STUDENTS WERE ASSESSED USING PLATO ACHIEVE NOW PROGRESS TESTS IN SEPTEMBER AND MAY OF EACH YEAR OF THE CSR IMPLEMENTATION. DURING YEAR ONE OF THE CSR PROGRAM, STUDENTS WERE ASSESSED THREE TIMES USING THE PLATO® eduTEST ASSESSMENT. DURING YEAR TWO OF THE PROGRAM, STUDENTS WERE ASSESSED ONLY TWO TIMES WITH THE PLATO® eduTEST ASSESSMENTS BECAUSE OF A SYSTEM ERROR. THE PLATO® eduTEST ASSESSMENTS WERE USED TO DETERMINE INSTRUCTION STRENGTHS AND GAPS FOR EACH STUDENT.

SCHOOL PROFILE

262 STUDENTS GRADES K-5
54.3% Free/Reduced Lunch
81.3% White
16.1% Hispanic
1.3% African American
1.3% Asian/Pacific Islander

PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ IMPLEMENTATION

Classroom/Lab/Family Homework Model
Grades K-5
Reading/Vocabulary/Grammar
Mathematics Focus
Comprehensive School Reform
Year Two
Began Fall 2003

RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

Achieve Now Progress Test
PLATO eduTest Assessments

RESEARCH TIME FRAME

2004-2005 School Year

SCHOOL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Standards: LeRoy Elementary School was awarded Comprehensive School Reform (CSR) Grant funding and purchased PLATO® Achieve Now, The PLATO® eduTest Assessment, The PLATO® Reading Center and the PLATO® Web Learning Network to support their school reform efforts. LeRoy Elementary based these efforts on their attempts to “stimulate and challenge students to do quality work.”

Curriculum and Instruction: PLATO® Achieve Now was initially integrated into instruction for students in grades two, three and four. Students in grade three were offered year long home deployment. Students in grades two and four used PLATO® Achieve Now at home for one half year. During scheduled lab times, Kindergarten through third-grade students had access to The PLATO® Reading Center and students in grades four and five had access to The PLATO® Web Learning Network. During the second year of CSR, students in all grades had access to PLATO® Achieve Now in the classroom and were given opportunity for use in family homework settings. In addition, all grade levels had access to The PLATO® Web Learning Network and The PLATO® Reading Center during scheduled times in the school’s technology lab.

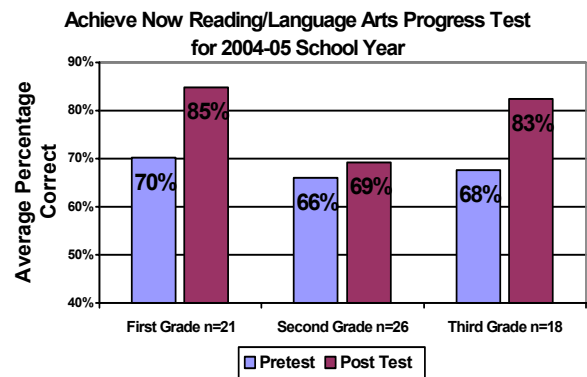
Assessment/Evaluation: Students were assessed using the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Tests and The PLATO® eduTest Assessment. Students took the PLATO® Achieve Now Pretest in September and the Post Test in May. Students used The PLATO® eduTest Assessment three times during year one of CSR and two times during year two of CSR. Student progress was measured by a comparative improvement from pre-to post-test on the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Tests.

Professional Development: During the first year of implementation, teachers reviewed the PLATO Professional Development CDs and were instructed on how to use data to tailor instruction and align the curriculum to the Michigan Educational Assessment Program standards. During the second year of CSR, teachers integrated the PLATO® Achieve Now interactive curriculum to their state standards and designed focused lessons to address “power objectives.”

Parental Involvement: Parents participated in Family Nights each fall and were instructed on the use of the PLATO® Achieve Now curriculum. The use of PLATO® Achieve Now increased parent participation in student achievement by directly involving them in student learning going on at their child’s school.

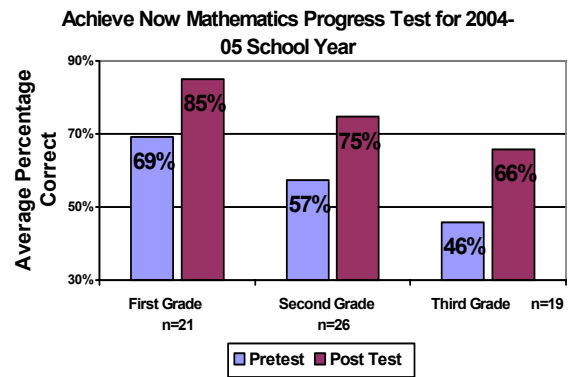
Students in grades one, two and three show gains in Reading and Language Arts

Students in first, second and third grade using PLATO® Achieve Now made gains in Reading and Language Arts. On the PLATO® Achieve Now Reading and Language Arts Progress Test, first-grade students made an average 15 (p<.001) percentage point gain, second-grade students made an average 3 (p=.238) percentage point gain and third-grade students made an average 15 (p<.001) percentage point gain when pre- and post-test scores were compared. Results were statistically significant for first grade and third grade.



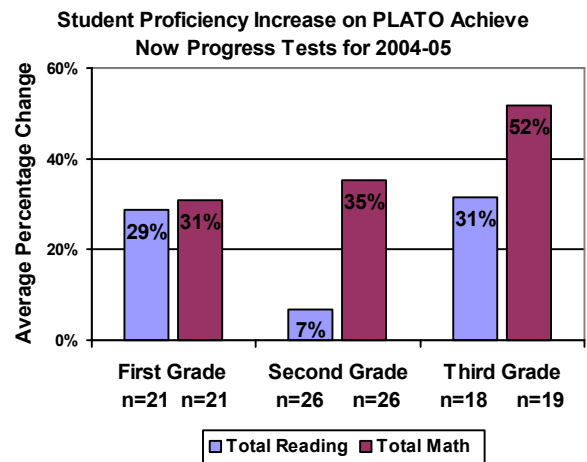
Students in grades one, two and three show gains in Mathematics

Students in first, second and third grade using PLATO® Achieve Now made gains in Mathematics. On the PLATO® Achieve Now Mathematics Progress Test, first-grade students made an average 16 (p<.001) percentage point gain, second-grade students made an average 17 (p<.001) percentage point gain and third-grade students made an average 20 (p<.001) percentage point gain when pre- and post-test scores were compared. Results were statistically significant for all three grade levels.



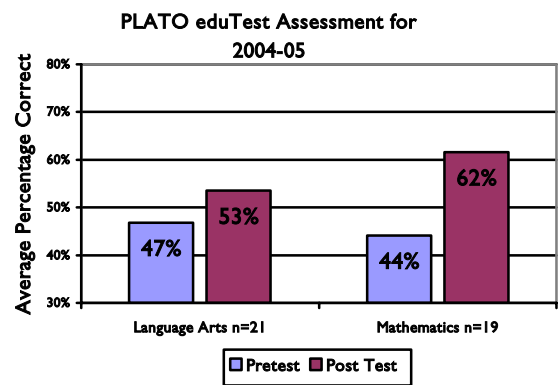
Students make gains in Total Reading and Total Mathematics proficiency

First-, second- and third-grade students using PLATO® Achieve Now made proficiency gains in Total Reading and Total Mathematics. When pre- and post-test scores were compared on average first-grade students made a 29% increase, second-grade students made a 7% increase and third-grade students made a 31% increase in Total Reading proficiency as measured by the PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Test. On average, first-grade students also made a 31% increase, second-grade students made a 35% increase and third-grade students made a 52% increase in Total Mathematics proficiency when PLATO® Achieve Now pre- and post-test scores were compared.



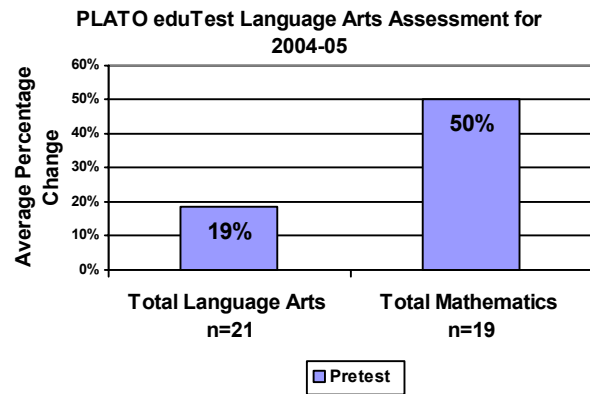
Students make gains as measured by PLATO eduTest Assessments

Third-grade students who used PLATO® Achieve Now were assessed using The PLATO® eduTest Assessments in Language Arts and Mathematics. When pre- and post-test scores were compared, third-grade students made an average 7 (p=.004) percentage point gain in Language Arts and an average 17 (p<.001) percentage point gain in Mathematics. Results were statistically significant for both Language Arts and Mathematics.



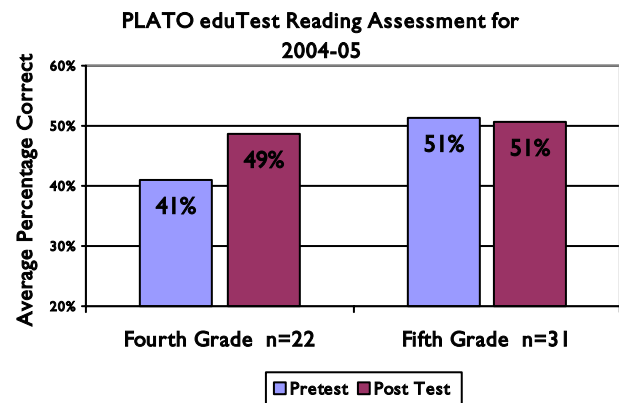
Third-grade students make gains in Language Arts and Mathematics proficiency

Third-grade students using PLATO® Achieve Now who were assessed using The PLATO® eduTest Assessments made an average 19% increase in Total Language Arts proficiency and an average 50% increase in Total Mathematics proficiency.



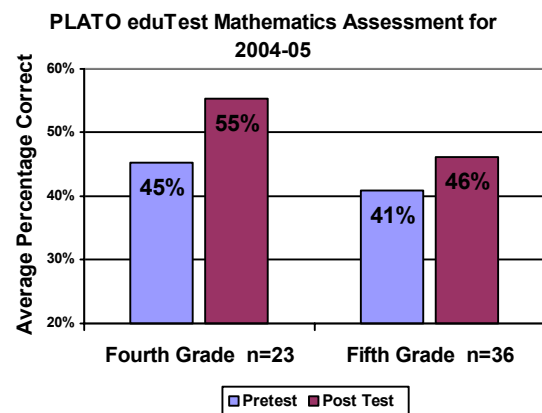
Fourth-grade students make gains as measured by PLATO® eduTest Reading Assessments

Fourth- and fifth-grade students who used PLATO® Achieve Now were assessed with The PLATO® eduTest Assessment in Reading. Fourth-grade students made an average 7 (p=.043) percentage point gain in Reading and fifth-grade students made a less than <1 (p=.816) percentage point decline in Reading. Results were statistically significant for fourth grade only.



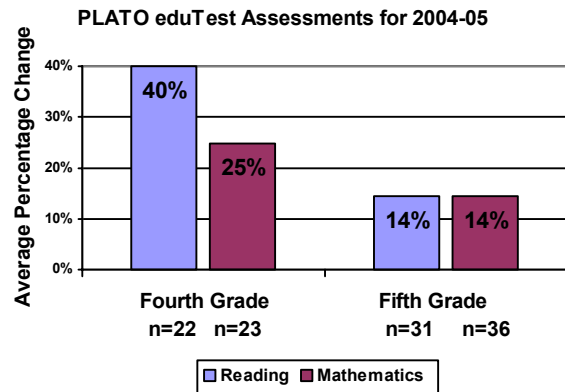
Fourth-grade and fifth-grade students make gains as measured by The PLATO® eduTest Mathematics Assessments

Fourth- and fifth-grade students who used PLATO® Achieve Now were assessed with The PLATO® eduTest Assessment in Mathematics. Fourth-grade students made an average 10 (p<.001) percentage point gain in Mathematics and fifth-grade students made an average 5 (p=.008) percentage point gain in Mathematics. Results were statistically significant for both fourth and fifth grade.



Students make gains in Reading and Mathematics proficiency

Fourth- and fifth-grade students who used PLATO® Achieve Now were assessed using The PLATO® eduTest Assessments. Fourth-grade students made an average 40% increase in Total Reading proficiency and an average 25% increase in Total Mathematics proficiency. Fifth-grade students made an average 14% increase in Total Reading proficiency and an average 14% increase in Total Mathematics proficiency.



LeRoy Elementary School Background

LeRoy Elementary School is part of the Pine River Area School District and serves approximately 262 students in grades Kindergarten through fifth grade. The school “welcomes learners with genuine kindness, to stimulate them with meaningful learning experiences and to challenge them to do quality work.”

LeRoy Elementary was awarded Comprehensive School Reform (CSR) Grant funds and purchased PLATO Achieve Now, The PLATO® eduTest Assessment, The PLATO® Web Learning Network and The PLATO Reading Center to use with students in grades two, three and four. The initial implementation was in the fall of 2003. During the first year of implementation, students in grade four used PLATO® Achieve Now during the first half of the year from September through the end of January. Second grade used PLATO® Achieve Now from February to May. All Kindergarten through third-grade students were offered access to The PLATO® Reading Center during a school computer lab time. Students in grades four and five were offered access to The PLATO® Web Learning Network during their scheduled computer lab time. During the second year of implementation The PLATO® Early Reading program was added and PLATO® Achieve Now was used by all classrooms in grades one through five. PLATO® Achieve Now was also made available in each classroom in a learning center setting. Students used the PLATO® Achieve Now interactive curriculum for 90 minutes each week. Students were given access to The PLATO® Web Learning Network and The PLATO® Reading Center during scheduled lab times.

During professional development sessions, teachers were given the opportunity to review the PLATO® Professional Development CDs. Teachers were instructed how to align the PLATO® Achieve Now interactive curriculum to the Michigan Educational Assessment Program standards. Teachers were instructed on using the results from the PLATO® eduTest Assessment to design focused lessons for teaching “power objectives.” An end of the year review was conducted each May to evaluate program implementation and success.

Family nights were held each fall to involve families in a successful home deployment implementation. Live seminars to introduce the PLATO® Web Learning Network and PLATO Reading Center were held in October. During the first year of CSR, third grade was offered the PLATO® Achieve Now CDs for a year long home deployment. [PU1]During the second year of CSR 97% of the students in grades Kindergarten through fifth grade were involved in home deployment.

Students were assessed using the PLATO Achieve Now Progress Test in September. During the first year of CSR students were assessed with The PLATO eduTest Benchmark Assessments in September, January and April. Due to a system problem students were assessed only two times with The PLATO eduTest assessment during the second year of CSR. The PLATO Achieve Now post test was administered in May both years of the CSR implementation.

LeRoy Elementary’s choice of PLATO Achieve Now, The PLATO® eduTest Assessment, The PLATO® Web Learning Network, The PLATO® Reading Center and The PLATO® Early Reading Program helped the school increase student achievement. Offering an innovative research based curriculum helped LeRoy Elementary reach the district’s goal to “provide educational opportunities enabling each student to develop the skills and abilities necessary to become a productive member of a changing society.”



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