

St. Anthony of Padua School

REGION 5-NEW YORK CITY DEPARTEMENT OF EDUCATION-(NYCDOE)
QUEENS, NEW YORK.

SCHOOL PROFILE

379 STUDENTS GRADES K-8
57% White
21% Hispanic
20% Other
2% African American

PLATO ACHIEVE NOW™ IMPLEMENTATION

Kindergarten Implementation
Classroom Model
Phonemic Awareness and Phonics
Focus

RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

PLATO Early Reading Program
Assessment

RESEARCH TIME FRAME

January-June 2005

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS MAKE GAINS IN ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE ARTS SKILL AREAS

DURING THE 2004-2005 SCHOOL YEAR ST ANTHONY OF PADUA SCHOOL OFFERED THE PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW K-3 READING PROGRAM TO LOW PERFORMING KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS TO IMPROVE THEIR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN EARLY LITERACY SKILLS. WHEN PRE- AND POST TEST SCORES OF THE PLATO® EARLY READING PROGRAM ASSESSMENTS WERE COMPARED, KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS ON AVERAGE MADE PERCENTAGE POINT GAINS OF 18 (p=.008) IN PHONEMIC AWARENESS, 26 (p<.001) IN COMPREHENSION AND 5 (p=.078) IN TOTAL ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE ARTS. THE LOW-PERFORMING KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS ON AVERAGE SHOWED PERCENTAGE POINT DECLINES OF 10 (p=.002) IN PHONICS AND 5 (p=.135) IN VOCABULARY. RESULTS WERE SIGNIFICANT FOR PHONEMIC AWARENESS, PHONICS AND COMPREHENSION.

IN TERMS OF ACTUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE, KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS USING PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW K-3 READING PROGRAM MADE AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASES OF 57% IN PHONEMIC AWARENESS, 58% IN COMPREHENSION AND 6% IN TOTAL ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE ARTS WHEN PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES OF THE PLATO® EARLY READING PROGRAM ASSESSMENTS WERE COMPARED. THE LOW-PERFORMING KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS ALSO MADE AVERAGE PERCENTAGE DECREASES OF 10% IN PHONICS AND 4% IN VOCABULARY WHEN PRE- AND POST-TEST SCORES WERE COMPARED.

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA SCHOOL USED FUNDS FROM AN ENHANCING EDUCATION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY (TITLE IID) GRANT AWARDED TO THE REGION TO IMPLEMENT THE PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW K-3 READING PROGRAM FOR ONE KINDERGARTEN CLASS. STUDENTS USED PLATO® ACHIEVE NOW INTERACTIVE CURRICULUM IN WHOLE GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION TWO TIMES EACH WEEK. PROGRAM SUCCESS WAS MEASURED BY IMPROVEMENT ON THE PLATO® EARLY READING PROGRAM ASSESSMENTS.

SCHOOL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Standards: St. Anthony of Padua School strives to create a learning environment which will build self-esteem, self-discipline, responsibility and essential life-long learning skills. They encourage interaction between teachers, students, parents and the community which they believe is necessary to foster education. They encourage student effort and believe that student success is a result of individual student effort.

Curriculum and Instruction: The PLATO® Achieve Now K-3 Reading interactive curriculum was integrated into the curriculum of one kindergarten classroom. The PLATO® Early Reading Program developmental assessments and Grading and Reporting Tool were used to align classroom instruction to the curriculum and to address targeted needs. The PLATO® Achieve Now K-3 Reading Progress Checks allowed the teacher to tailor classroom instruction to the students' identified learning needs.

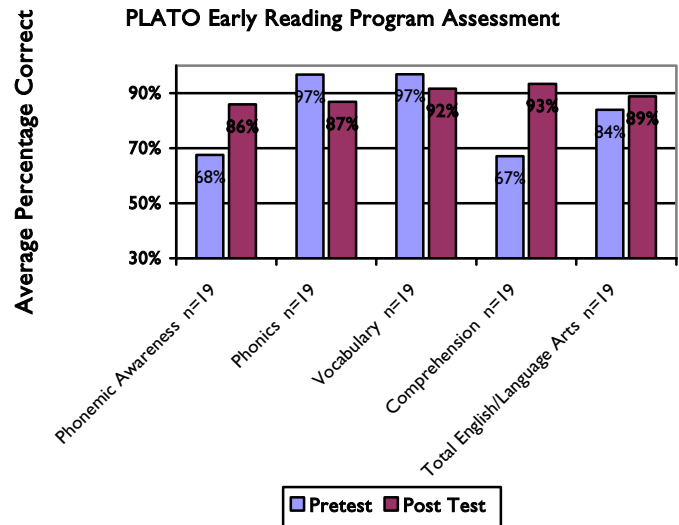
Assessment/Evaluation: Multiple assessments to monitor student progress throughout the school year included: PLATO® Early Reading Program Assessments, Observational Checklists, and PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Checks.

Professional Development: There were multiple professional development sessions throughout the implementation year. The professional development plan included regional summer, winter and spring workshops. These workshops provided opportunities for participants to share best practices within the scheduled session of Program Orientation, Analyzing and Aligning, and Aligning and Integrating. Site specific sessions consisted of planning meetings, mentoring and coaching sessions, review and evaluation sessions and ongoing site needs support.

Parental Involvement:-none-

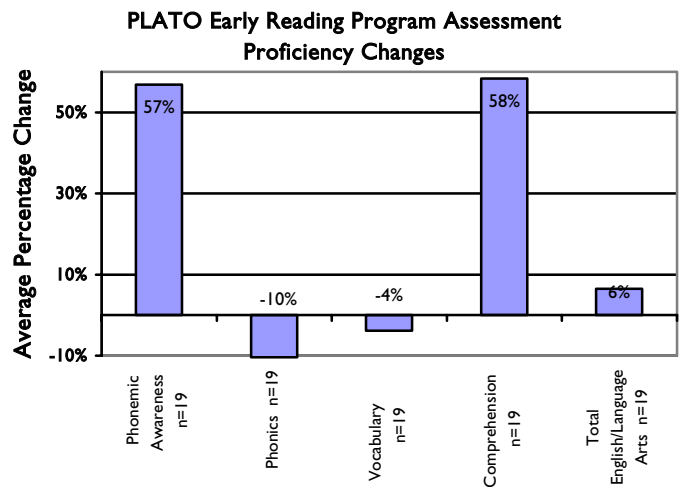
Kindergarten students make gains in three literacy skill areas

Low-performing Kindergarten students at the St Anthony of Padua School using the PLATO® Achieve Now K-3 Reading Program on average made percentage point gains of 18 (p=.008) in Phonemic Awareness, 26 (p<.001) in Comprehension and 5 (p=.078) in Total English and Language Arts when pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Early Reading Program Assessment were compared. The low-performing kindergarten students did make average percentage point decreases of 10 (p=.002) in Phonics and 5 (p=.135) in Vocabulary when the pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Early Reading Program Assessment were compared. Results were significant for Phonemic Awareness, Phonics and Comprehension.



Kindergarten students make proficiency increases in literacy skills

When the pre- and post-test scores of the PLATO® Early Reading Program Assessment were compared, low-performing kindergarten students at St Anthony of Padua School using on average made proficiency increases of 57% in Phonemic Awareness, 58% in Comprehension and 6% in Total English and Language Arts. The low-performing kindergarten students also made average percentage decreases of 10% in Phonics and 4% in Vocabulary when pre- and post-test scores were compared.



St. Anthony of Padua School Background

St. Anthony of Padua School is one of fourteen Region 5 New York Department of Education non-public schools participating in a district initiative to increase the academic performance of early elementary students through the use of the PLATO Achieve Now K-3 Early Reading Program. The school is located in the borough of Brooklyn in New York City and serves approximately 379 students in grades K-8.

Implementation of PLATO® Achieve Now K-3 Reading, standards based curriculum program, at St. Anthony of Padua School began in January 2005 funded by the Title II D funds awarded to Region 5. One kindergarten teacher and classroom at St. Anthony of Padua School participated in the regional implementation. The students worked with the PLATO® Achieve Now K-3 Reading interactive curriculum components for two, forty-five minute sessions each week in direct, whole group and individual instruction.

During Professional Development sessions, PLATO® Achieve Now K-3 Reading Program was aligned to New York State Standards and to the school's specific literary resources. The participating kindergarten teacher was then able to identify and select the PLATO® Achieve Now K-3 Reading activities and materials to address teaching objectives. The PLATO® Educational Consultant worked with the teacher in her classroom in a mentoring capacity to plan, review, evaluate and tailor the implementation to the selected instructional objectives.

Throughout the implementation PLATO® Achieve Now Progress Checks and observational checklists were used to monitor student improvement. Program success was measured through an analysis of student scores on the PLATO® Achieve Now Early Reading Program Assessment.

St. Anthony of Padua School will continue implementing the PLATO Achieve Now K-3 curriculum resources during the 2005-2006 school year and the teacher will participate in further professional development. This site will also begin using resources to implement the home deployment component of the program with hopes of extending the home-school connection.



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