

ASSET RESULTS REPORT

Demonstrated Results after seven years of Science Education Reform In Allegheny County

Do Increased Hours of Teachers' Professional Development Lead to Improved Student Test Scores?

A recent study* indicates that greatly improved scores in the Pennsylvania System Student Assessment (PSSA) tests may be connected to the amount of professional development and standards-based materials used in the classroom

The 2002 study examined PSSA math and reading results of fifth grade students in 30 Allegheny County school district classrooms, from 1996-2001, participating in the ASSET program. ASSET provides teachers with advanced professional development training in hands-on inquiry, and supports their classrooms with the learning materials that complement district curriculums.

The research examined students' scores in three groups of districts:

COHORT ONE (joined ASSET in 1995):

- Teachers had an average of **85 hours of professional development through ASSET**
- Districts' scores in math and reading **improved by more than 20 points**

COHORT TWO (joined ASSET in 1998):

- Teachers had an average of **49 hours of professional development through ASSET**
- Districts' scores in math and reading **improved by an average of 7 points**

STATE:

- Teachers had **0 hours of professional development through ASSET**
- **State scores in math and reading remained stationary**

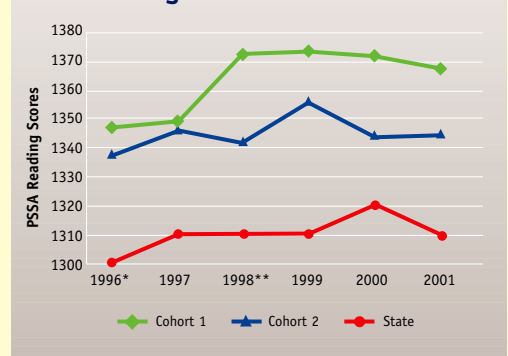
These results are consistent with earlier test scores of a large sample of fifth graders. While other factors cannot be ruled out, the results clearly indicate a consistent trend toward improved test scores in classrooms where professional development and inquiry-based learning is emphasized.

For further information, please visit the ASSET web site at www.assetinc.org or call ASSET Inc. at (412) 771-2121.

* Based upon research conducted by Dr. Raghavan at Learning Research and Development Center (University of Pittsburgh) and ASSET Inc.

* NOTE: The social economic variance is negligible in Cohort 1 and Cohort 2.

PSSA Reading Scores Trend



PSSA Math Scores

