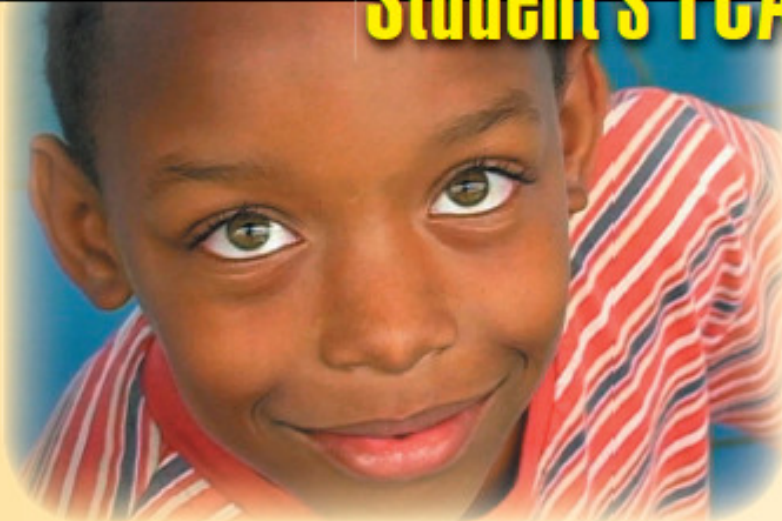


Student's FCAT Results Soar



Overview:

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County (BGCPBC), located in West Palm Beach, Florida, hosts an extended-day program for students in their school-based Palm Beach County elementary school locations.

The program, funded by a 21st Century Community Learning Center (21CCLC) grant, is designed to increase educational skill levels of economically disadvantaged students, many classified as Limited English Proficient (LEP), across Palm Beach County.

Background:

Founded in 1971, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County (BGCPBC) is a not-for-profit youth development organization dedicated to promoting the educational, vocational, health leadership and character of boys and girls in a safe, nurturing environment. The Clubs provide more than a safe, fun and constructive alternative to being home alone as they offer a variety of award-winning developmental programs to help youth build skills, self-esteem and values during critical periods of growth.

The demographics of the students who participate in the program are as follows:

- 67% African American
- 30% Hispanic
- 14% Limited English Proficient (LEP)
- 98% eligible for free and reduced lunch

Learning Today's Smart Tutor™ program was selected in 2003 to be their educational technology solution to support students in improving their reading and math skills. Reasons for selection included its high quality content written by educators, ease of implementation and cross-platform compatibility. Gwynne Williams, Director of Education, BGCPBC, stated that they were looking for a program that would support the work being done during regular school hours:

"I was looking to find a program that would support the work being conducted in the schools and one that would link the regular school day with our before and after school programs.

Learning Today follows the Sunshine State Standards and was a perfect fit. I really wanted a program that was strong in both reading and mathematics and a program that would be appealing to the students."



Gwynne Williams
Director of Education, BGCPBC





Approximately 150 students at the following school sites, used the program in the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 school year:

- Gladeview Elementary
- Canal Point Elementary
- Rosenwald Elementary
- Pioneer Park Elementary
- Bethune Elementary
- De George Elementary
- Northmore Elementary
- Riviera Beach Elementary

BGCPBC implemented the Learning Today program in fall of 2003. Students used both the Math & Reading *Smart Tutor*™ program for two years as part of the activities in the extended day program.

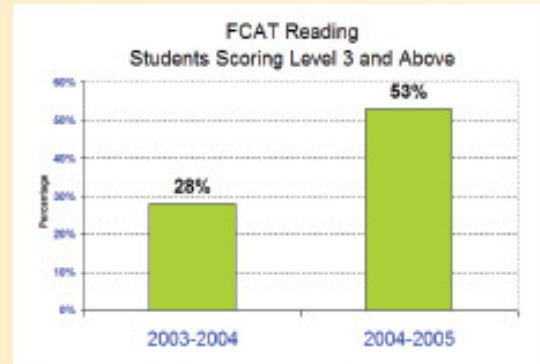
Results:

Of the students in grades 3 – 5 who participated in the program, 81 out of 150 (over 50%) also took the Florida high stakes test – Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) for two consecutive years.

The number of students who scored a level 3 and above on the reading & math FCAT were analyzed to compare progress from the 2004 test (Year 1) to the 2005 test (Year 2). Achievement levels describe the success a student has achieved on the Florida *Sunshine State Standards* tested on the FCAT. Achievement levels range from 1 to 5, with Level 1 being the lowest and Level 5 being the highest.

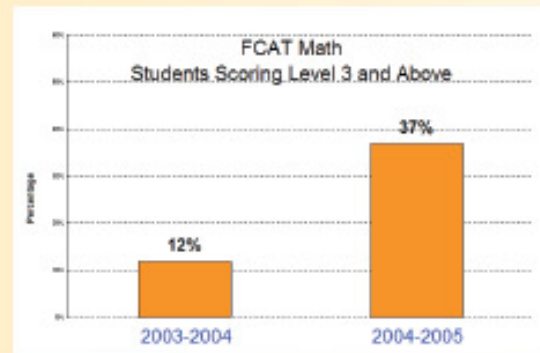
FCAT Reading Results

In reading, the number of students that scored an achievement level of 3 and above showed a significant increase of 87% from Year 1 to Year 2. A total of 43 students (53%) scored at a level 3 in reading in Year 2 compared to 23 students (28%) in Year 1.



FCAT Math Results

The same trend was seen in Math as well, with the number of students that scored an achievement level of 3 or above rising by a dramatic 200% from Year 1 to Year 2. A total of 30 students (37%) scored at a level 3 in math in Year 2 compared to 10 students (12%) in Year 1.



Conclusion

The results of the BGCPBC Program further support current research which illustrates a strong relationship between individualized computer-based instruction and performance on high stakes tests. Gwynne Williams, Director of Education is very pleased with the results.

"Learning Today, in my opinion, is an exceptional educational tool. It creates a one to one ratio that is fun and challenging, while it reinforces and expands the horizons of students. The learning that takes place using this medium is state of the art."

Gwynne Williams
 Director of Education
 Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County