

Test Scores Improve and Discipline Problems Decrease at Iowa Elementary School

ITBS Scores in reading increased from 40th to 70th percentile

Excerpts from an original article by Melanie M. Pooch, Title I reading specialist,
Muscatine Community School District.

Summer reports provided by Paul Brooks, principal, Grant Elementary School
Research conducted during 1998.

Impact at Grant Elementary School

Grant Elementary School is a K–5 school that began using Accelerated Reader® in 1992. Various data, including Iowa Tests of Basic Skills were collected for 194 children in grades 2–5 during the 1996–97 academic year. Principal Paul Brooks states that AR has positively influenced his school in numerous ways. He reported:

“ . . . the number of books checked out of the library media center increased by 500%; the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) reading comprehension scores have increased in from the 40th percentile to the 70th percentile; attendance has increased from 92% to 96%; and discipline problems have significantly decreased.”

Grant Elementary, a Renaissance™ Model School, hosted an 18-day summer program in 1998 for all Muscatine elementary schools. Accelerated Reader was used in grades 1–5, and STAR Reading® pre- and post-test results were collected for 143 students. Over the course of this program, the students read and took tests for over 4,000 books, 105 children had perfect attendance, no discipline problems were experienced, and an average reading growth of 3.5 months occurred.

School Profile Grant Elementary Muscatine, Iowa

Grades K–5

Educator Backgrounds

Melanie M. Pooch wrote the article, “The Accelerated Reader: An analysis of the software’s strengths and weaknesses and how it can be used to its best potential,” which appeared in the May 1998 issue of *School Library Media Activities Monthly*. She is a graduate student in the Library and Information Sciences program at the University of Iowa.

Paul Brooks is principal at Grant Elementary School in Muscatine, Iowa, and a Renaissance Associate Presenter. He submitted reports from Muscatine’s 1998 summer school program where Accelerated Reader was used.

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