

## Georgia Elementary School Achieves Growth in ITBS Scores Through Reading Renaissance® Implementation

Source: Susan Morris, principal, Buford Elementary School  
Research conducted during the 1997–98 school year.

**School Profile**  
**Buford Elementary School**  
Buford, Georgia

Students: 830, Grades 1–4

### Overall Results

STAR Reading® reports and Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) reading scores illustrate significant growth for Buford Elementary students in grades one through four. According to Buford's STAR Reading grade equivalent scores, students achieved an average growth of one-half year in only three months between October 1997 and January 1998. Likewise, Buford's ITBS scores reflect accelerated reading growth of three years in only a two-year period of time. Buford's third grade ITBS reading scores alone have

consistently exceeded the state's third grade reading averages by 8 to 13 percentile points per year. What makes these scores even more impressive is that Buford Elementary has an annual student mobility rate of 25%. Since the implementation of Reading Renaissance (RR) techniques, discipline problems have decreased and school attendance rates have increased. Additional benefits include increased library circulation of over 10,000 books per year.

### Buford Elementary ITBS Reading Percentile Scores

	1995–96 (Pre-RR)	1996–97	1997–98
Average Score	56.5	63.75	70.5
Growth	N/A	7.25	6.75

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