

MEMORANDUM

November 30, 2011

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Terry B. Grier, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **TITLE I, PART A PRIVATE NONPROFIT SCHOOLS 2010–2011**

CONTACT: Carla Stevens, 713-556-6700

Background

In an effort to annually assess the progress of Title I services to nonpublic schools, Houston Independent School District (HISD) supported services to 24 area private schools and their students in grades K–12. HISD provided services specifically in the areas of reading/language arts and/or mathematics at those schools. Given that the schools served used different academic testing measures, HISD may use “other assessment measures that more accurately reflect the progress of the private school participating students toward meeting the standards that the LEA, in consultation with private school officials, has determined is appropriate”. (U.S. Department of Education, (2003). *Title I Services to Eligible Private School Students-Non Regulatory Guidance*)

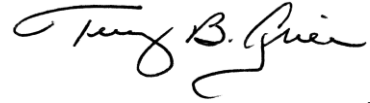
Attached is the evaluation completed by 21st Century Learning for the 2010–2011 school year. Among the private schools served in HISD, all students received pre- and post- tests in conjunction with the administration of the online lessons and small group direct instruction. Meetings with faculty and parents were held annually by 21st Century Learning and HISD Title I staff persons. Program eligibility requirements, scheduling, and process for communication were explained. Initial services began in the spring semester and concluded with a summer session for 2010–2011. A disaggregation of pre- and posttest outcomes, and mastered modules by school and by grade were calculated for 21st Century Learning to determine achievement. 21st Century Learning Online utilized three national online lessons, AchieveMath, AchieveRead, and PLATO Learning System to facilitate the program implementation which were approximately three days a week from 30 minutes to one hour each day on each campus.

Overall, the 2010–2011 outcomes indicated the following:

- A review of the data showed 359 students received reading services and 346 students received mathematics services for a total of 705 services provided at 24 schools in grades K–12.
- Comparison of pretest/posttest performance was only conducted on those students who received two or more hours of online instruction. In the area of reading, students at St. Christopher Catholic School experienced the greatest gains (30.2 percentage points). Students at Queen of Peace Catholic Church showed the greatest increase of (26.8 percentage points) in mathematics. Cristo Rey Jesuit Preparatory Academy served the most students in both reading (31) and mathematics (32).

- Generally, principals, teachers, and parents were pleased with the implementation of the services provided by 21st Century Learning. An overall mean score of 4.4 for principals and 4.2 for teachers was calculated for each of the items rated (i.e. Poor–Excellent) on the satisfaction survey for 2010–2011. On the parent survey, an overall mean score of 3.7 for each of the items rated (i.e. Strongly Disagree–Strongly Agree).

Should you have any further questions, please contact my office or Carla Stevens in the Research and Accountability Department at (713) 556-6700.



TBG

cc: Superintendent's Direct Reports
Chief School Officers
Matilda Orozco
Pamela Evans



T W E N T Y - F I R S T

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**Houston Independent School District
Nonpublic Schools
Title I Program Summary
2010-2011**



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Appendix A: Survey Results

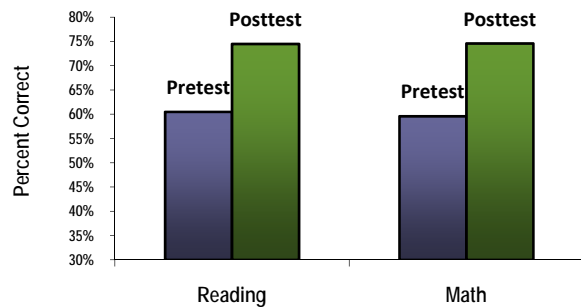


Overview of Student Success

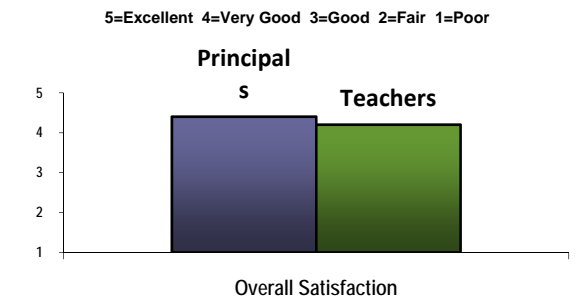
21st Century Learning, a division of Catapult Learning, provided Title I reading and math instructional services to students enrolled in 24 nonpublic schools in Houston, TX. Students received online and direct instruction approximately three days a week.

RESULTS

TEST SCORES - A comparison of the percent scored correct on the pretest and posttest of the PLATO Learning Assessment revealed positive gains in reading and math.



SATISFACTION - Principals (n=15) and teachers (n=12) reported their overall satisfaction with 21st Century Learning services as Very Good.



Surveys were completed by 83 parents, and 100% agreed that they were satisfied with the 21st Century Learning program.

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

- * Services to students began on October 25, 2010 and concluded on June 30, 2011
- * 705 services provided
 - o 359 in reading/language arts
 - o 346 in math
- * Grade-levels K through 12
- * 24 schools served

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- * PLATO Learning online curriculum and educational resources
- * Direct instruction utilizing AchieveReading and AchieveMath, nationally aligned resources and lesson plans
- * Title I staff development and workshops
- * Annual Title I meetings with school faculty members and participating students
- * Onsite summer school instruction
- * Summer school materials supplied to enrich instruction

Overview of Program

In the 2010-2011 school year, 21st Century Learning, a division of Catapult Learning, provided Title I instructional services to students enrolled in 24 nonpublic schools in the Houston Independent School District in Houston, TX. Services were offered to students in grades K through 12 in reading/language arts and/or math.

Students were provided with online Title I instructional service approximately three days per week based on the needs of the students, teacher itineraries, the request of the building principals, and district approval. The length of each session ranged from 30 minutes to one hour.

The program model included individualized online instruction supported by small group direct instruction. Students took a pretest that determined individual needs and assigned online lessons. In addition, students worked in shared-needs groups for direct, interactive skill-based instruction. The combination of individualized learning and interactive group instruction helped students build academic skills and confidence. Data from the online curriculum and student performance in Targeted Mini Lessons as well as classroom teacher feedback provided ongoing information for Title I teachers to use to continuously customize student learning.

Services to students took place within the school building. All services were provided in compliance with district requirements and Federal guidelines.

The following pages describe the significant aspects of the program over the course of the year including program highlights, a timeline, a summary of services, achievement test data, and results of the principal and teacher surveys.

21st Century Learning is once again pleased to have worked with the Archdiocese and the Jewish Federation in serving the Title I needs of nonpublic school children in the Houston Independent School District.

Program Highlights

The 2010-2011 school year began with pre-service training for all new and continuing teachers. The highly qualified teachers selected to facilitate the Title I programs received rigorous training in compliance procedures and instruction. They were required to maintain compliance documentation for each student that was serviced in the program. Additionally, the teachers learned effective techniques for teaching a supplemental program. These researched-based strategies were designed specifically for the use of the recommended curriculum—Achieve Reading, Achieve Math, and the PLATO Learning System. All curriculums are aligned to state, local, and national standards.

The Achieve Reading Curriculum included: Teacher manuals, lesson binders, Reader Strategies Reference Guides, Sight Word Lists, Graphic Organizers, Phonics Handbooks, novels, and workbooks. The lessons also contained modifications for English Language Learners and Special Needs Students.

The Achieve Math Curriculum included: Teacher Manuals, Lesson Binders, Problem Solving Strategies Guide, Manipulatives Kits (fraction tiles, flash cards-addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) Teddy Bear Counters, Number Lines, Unifix Cubes, Two Color Counters, Fraction Circles, base ten kits, and counting money kit.

The PLATO Learning System Curriculum included: Online Curriculum (lessons and assessments to address individualized learning on which students work at their own pace and received immediate feedback) and Targeted Mini Lessons (students with same needs worked together with their teacher on 8-10 minute, interactive, skill-based activities).

With the start of the program, the 21st Century Learning teachers met with principals, teachers, parents, and students. At each school, the 21st Century Learning teachers conducted Annual Title I meetings with school faculty members and parents of participating students to review the 21st Century Learning program, eligibility requirements, scheduling, and the communication and collaboration process.

During the first weeks of service, students completed diagnostic testing using the assessment embedded in the PLATO Learning Curriculum. The assessment results were used to determine each student's level and to establish the skills needed to be emphasized for the year. At the end of the program, the students were post-tested to identify gains and strengths incurred from the supplemental instruction

Throughout the year, 21st Century Learning teachers were supervised and supported by the local 21st Century Learning supervisor, Mrs. LaSonya Dunham. Mrs. Dunham served as a liaison to district representatives, the Archdiocese, the Jewish Federation, school principals, and parents. She also provided instructional supervision, managed each teacher's instructional objectives for each Title I group, and conducted monthly staff meetings.

Ms. Karen Clark and Ms. Jeanne Grailey, the 21st Century Learning Educational Quality Managers, provided support to the program by conducting staff development training and lending expertise on instructional aspects of the program. Mrs. Annette Charles, Regional Director and Ms. Cheryl West, Regional Vice President, provided administrative support and expertise.

In June, all records and documentation were reviewed, and all teaching sites were inspected for closure.

Program Timeline

September

13-23 Initial Title I School Consultations

October

19 Title I Teacher Training-Webinar-Introduction to PLATO Learning

23 Title I Teacher Operations Training-applications, policies, procedure

26 Title I Teacher Training-Webcast-Passport

December

2 Meeting with Dr. Judy Goldstein, Associate Superintendent for the Archdiocese of Houston, and Cheryl West, Annette Charles, Tiffany Wilbur and LaSonya Dunham.

Meeting with Aundrea Hickman, HISD Senior Grants Administrator, conducted by Cheryl West, Annette Charles, Tiffany Wilbur and LaSonya Dunham

January

10 Title I Teacher Training—Webinar-Applications of PLATO Learning

19 Archdiocese visit with Dr. Judy Goldstein by Cheryl West, Annette Charles, Clossie Ray and LaSonya Dunham

26-28 Title I Principal Visits conducted by Annette Charles and LaSonya Dunham to Assumption, Queen of Peace, St. Francis, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and St. Peter

March

3-4 Title I Principal Visits conducted by Annette Charles to Shlenker, Torat Emet, Torah Day.

Meeting with Aundrea Hickman conducted by Annette Charles and LaSonya Dunham.

April

26-28 Title I Principal Visits conducted by Annette Charles and LaSonya Dunham to St. Therese, St. Christopher, Holy Ghost, Cristo Rey, and St. Pius X. Meeting with Aundrea Hickman conducted by Annette Charles and LaSonya Dunham.

June

1 Title I Summer School begins

24 Title I Teacher training – Engaging and Interactive Teaching Strategies and Classroom Management Techniques

28 Meeting with Elaine Kellerman of the Jewish Federation conducted by Annette Charles

30 Title I Summer School ends

Summary of Service

21st Century Learning provided 705 reading and/or math services to 24 schools throughout the year.

SCHOOL	Reading	Math	Total Number of Services
Assumption	29	15	44
Beren Academy	--	5	5
Beth Yeshurun	15	8	23
Cristo Rey	35	36	71
Holy Ghost	10	10	20
Incarinate Word	12	--	12
John Paul II	--	2	2
Our Lady of Guadalupe	15	21	36
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	8	5	13
Our Redeemer Lutheran	2	3	5
Queen of Peace	31	36	67
Resurrection	26	25	51
St. Augustine	8	6	14
St. Christopher	15	27	42
St. Francis de Sales	17	12	29
St. Francis of Assisi	7	7	14
St. Mary	2	3	5
St. Peter	12	15	27
St. Rose of Lima	17	16	33
Shlenker	20	15	35
St. Pius X High School	20	19	39
St. Theresa	12	15	27
St. Thomas More	29	27	56
Torat Emet	14	10	24
Torah Day	3	8	11
PROGRAM TOTAL	359	346	705

Program Evaluation

21st Century Learning has a multi-faceted approach to program evaluation. Principals, teachers, and parents were surveyed to ascertain their perceptions of the instructional services and to implement improvements where needed. In addition to responding to standard survey items, respondents were encouraged to comment. The process assists in assessing the program's strengths and weaknesses and in developing recommendations for program change.

As part of the evaluation process, achievement test data were analyzed as well. Matching pretest and posttest scores on the PLATO Learning Assessment were collected and grouped by subject, grade and school.

Survey Results

Principals

In the spring, each school principal was sent a survey to complete. Principals were asked to rate their perceptions of the various aspects of the program using a 5 to 1 scale with 5 being "Excellent" and 1 being "Poor." Surveys also included questions about facilities and equipment, program coordination, and administrative support as well as space for the principal to include comments.

Surveys were completed by 15 principals. The results were positive with an average rating for overall satisfaction of 4.4 ("Very Good"). In addition, the principals' high ratings in the categories of staff competence, communication, timeliness, effectiveness and quality of the students' experiences in the 21st Century Learning program were further indication that the principals were satisfied with the program. The averages for these items ranged from 4.1 to 4.6 ("Very Good" to "Excellent"). Appendix A includes an item-level summary of the principal survey results.

Teachers

At the same time the principals were surveyed, the classroom teachers were asked to complete a similar survey using the same rating scale (5 meaning "excellent," and 1 meaning "poor"). Teachers were asked to rate different aspects of the program including communication, timeliness, understanding of the Title I students' needs, results achieved, and overall satisfaction. Twelve teachers completed the surveys. The overall satisfaction rating was 4.2 ("Very Good"). Appendix A includes an item-level summary of the teacher survey results.

Parents

In April, surveys were sent home to parents of all participating students via their child. Parents were asked to indicate their level of agreement to a series of statements using a 4 to 1 scale with 4 being "Strongly Agree" and 1 being "Strongly Disagree." In addition, comments and suggestions were sought.

Surveys were completed by 83 parents, and 100% agreed that they were satisfied with the 21st Century Learning program. Appendix A includes an item-level analysis of the parent survey followed by a sample of parent comments.

Achievement Results

At the start of the academic year, students enrolled in the Title I program were given the PLATO Learning Assessment to determine their skill strengths and weaknesses. Students were tested again at the end of the program to provide a measure of growth. The pretest/posttest comparison was limited to students who had received two or more hours of online instruction and who had matched pretest and posttest scores. This made it possible to collect data on 187 reading students and 218 math students.

The pretest and posttest scores (% correct) were collected and analyzed by subject, grade, and school. Tables 1-6 display average pretest, posttest, and difference scores for each subject, by school and by grade.

Table 1. Total Reading Results by School

School	Number of Students	Average Pretest % Correct	Average Posttest % Correct	Average Difference
Assumption Catholic School	21	69.0	79.6	10.6
Beth Yeshurun	5	80.0	92.0	12.0
Cristo Rey Jesuit Preparatory Academy	31	52.4	58.4	6.0
Holy Ghost Catholic School	6	54.5	74.8	20.3
Our Lady Guadalupe	6	52.0	68.5	16.5
Our Lady Mt. Carmel	5	75.2	84.6	9.4
Our Redeemer Lutheran	1	*	*	--
Queen of Peace Catholic School	17	48.4	73.2	24.8
Resurrection Catholic School	12	48.7	57.8	9.2
Sephardic Gan/Torat Emet	6	71.7	71.7	0.0
Shlenker School	9	67.8	86.3	18.6
St. Christopher Catholic School	6	51.5	81.7	30.2
St. Frances De Sales Catholic School	10	76.3	85.2	8.9
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School	1	*	*	--
St. Mary of the Purification School	1	*	*	--
St. Peter the Apostle Catholic School	10	42.0	67.8	25.8
St. Pius X High	12	74.7	83.8	9.2
St. Rose of Lima	4	*	*	--
St. Theresa Catholic School	8	61.5	70.4	8.9
St. Thomas More Catholic School	15	65.5	88.1	22.7
Torah Day	1	*	*	--

* Results not reported for fewer than five students.

Table 2. Total Reading Results by Grade

Grade	Number of Students	Average Pretest % Correct	Average Posttest % Correct	Average Difference
2	1	*	*	--
3	17	80.1	90.7	10.6
4	31	65.6	78.8	13.2
5	31	56.1	77.6	21.5
6	16	55.6	72.2	16.6
7	21	60.5	77.4	16.9
8	26	52.7	69.4	16.8
9	5	70.0	83.2	13.2
10	34	55.0	60.7	5.7
11	4	*	*	--
12	1	*	*	--

* Results not reported for fewer than five students.

Table 3. Total Math Results by School

School	Number of Students	Average Pretest % Correct	Average Posttest % Correct	Average Difference
Assumption Catholic School	7	66.0	78.0	12.0
Beren Academy	5	51.6	69.2	17.6
Beth Yeshurun	6	68.3	81.7	13.3
Cristo Rey Jesuit Preparatory Academy	32	44.2	53.4	9.3
Holy Ghost Catholic School	6	42.7	64.5	21.8
John Paul II	2	*	*	--
Our Lady Guadalupe	12	46.1	66.8	20.8
Our Lady Mt. Carmel	3	*	*	--
Our Redeemer Lutheran	2	*	*	--
Queen of Peace Catholic School	24	50.2	77.0	26.8
Resurrection Catholic School	15	51.7	63.9	12.3
Sephardic Gan/Torat Emet	7	92.9	92.9	0.0
Shlenker School	8	87.5	95.0	7.5
St. Augustine Catholic School	2	*	*	--
St. Christopher Catholic School	18	66.6	87.1	20.4
St. Frances De Sales Catholic School	5	77.2	89.2	12.0
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School	1	*	*	--
St. Mary of the Purification School	2	*	*	--
St. Peter the Apostle Catholic School	13	41.1	63.7	22.6
St. Pius X High School	11	65.3	76.2	10.9
St. Rose of Lima	9	65.7	82.8	17.1
St. Theresa	10	63.1	70.4	7.3

School	Number of Students	Average Pretest % Correct	Average Posttest % Correct	Average Difference
St. Thomas More	12	81.8	95.8	14.0
Torah Day	6	63.3	81.7	18.3

* Results not reported for fewer than five students.

Table 4. Total Math Results by Grade

Grade	Number of Students	Average Pretest % Correct	Average Posttest % Correct	Average Difference
2	1	*	*	--
3	27	89.3	94.7	5.3
4	34	54.7	79.4	24.7
5	36	58.7	75.1	16.4
6	17	65.5	84.1	18.6
7	31	56.5	70.9	14.4
8	23	52.6	71.0	18.4
9	2	*	*	--
10	40	47.5	57.4	9.9
11	6	66.5	79.0	12.5
12	1	*	*	--

* Results not reported for fewer than five students.

Table 5. Total English Results by School

School	Number of Students	Average Pretest % Correct	Average Posttest % Correct	Average Difference
Incarnate Word	12	71.7	77.5	5.8

Table 6. Total English Results by Grade

Grade	Number of Students	Average Pretest % Correct	Average Posttest % Correct	Average Difference
9	12	71.7	77.5	5.8

PLATO Mastery Data

Progress made by students in grades K-2 was measured by comparing the number of Learning Activities mastered at the beginning of the program to the number mastered at the end of the program. Students who spent at least 15 hours on task were included in the comparison. Tables 7-10 display the results for each subject, by school and by grade.

Table 7. Total Reading Results by School

School	Number of Students	Avg. Total Modules Possible	Avg. # Modules Mastered Program Start	Avg. # Modules Mastered Program End	Difference of Modules Mastered
Beth Yeshurun	8	31.3	18.1	22.5	4.4
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	1	31.3	*	*	--
Queen of Peace	2	31.3	*	*	--
Resurrection	4	31.3	*	*	--
Shlenker	7	31.3	16.7	24.0	7.3
St. Augustine	4	31.3	*	*	--
St. Rose	6	31.3	17.0	27.0	10.0
Torat Emet	5	31.3	18.0	26.0	8.0

* Results not reported for fewer than five students.

Table 8. Total Reading Results by Grade

Grade	Number of Students	Avg. Total Modules Possible	Avg. # Modules Mastered Program Start	Avg. # Modules Mastered Program End	Difference of Modules Mastered
K	5	31	19.8	25.0	5.2
1	21	39	16.1	27.9	11.8
2	11	27	15.8	23.3	7.5

Table 9. Total Math Results by School

School	Number of Students	Avg. Total Modules Possible	Avg. # Modules Mastered Program Start	Avg. # Modules Mastered Program End	Difference of Modules Mastered
Queen of Peace	1	30	*	*	--
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	2	30	*	*	--
Our Lady of Guadalupe	7	30	14.7	29.3	14.6
Resurrection	5	30	16.4	26.6	10.2
Shlenker	4	30	*	*	--
St. Augustine	5	30	13.8	29.0	15.2
St. Theresa	1	30	*	*	--

* Results not reported for fewer than five students.

Table 10. Total Math Results by Grade

Grade	Number of Students	Avg. Total Modules Possible	Avg. # Modules Mastered Program Start	Avg. # Modules Mastered Program End	Difference of Modules Mastered
K	3	31	*	*	--
1	7	39	14.6	29.6	15.0
2	15	27	17.7	28.4	10.7

* Results not reported for fewer than five students.



T W E N T Y - F I R S T

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Appendix A

2010-2011

Survey Results

PRINCIPAL SURVEY

5 = Excellent	4 = Very Good	3 = Good	2 = Fair	1 = Poor
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	N	Mean
<i>Frequency of communication between 21st Century Learning program staff and you and your staff</i>	15	4.5
<i>21st Century Learning program's timeliness in responding to the needs of your school</i>	14	4.5
<i>Professional expertise of the 21st Century Learning staff</i>	14	4.6
<i>Effectiveness of the 21st Century Learning Title I program in meeting student needs</i>	14	4.2
<i>The quality of the students' experiences in the 21st Century Learning program</i>	14	4.1
<i>Overall satisfaction with the services provided this year</i>	14	4.4

TEACHER SURVEY

5 = Excellent	4 = Very Good	3 = Good	2 = Fair	1 = Poor
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	N	Mean
<i>Frequency of communication between 21st Century Learning staff and yourself</i>	12	4.0
<i>Timeliness of 21st Century Learning program staff in responding to your needs</i>	12	4.3
<i>21st Century Learning program staff's understanding of the needs of your students</i>	12	4.1
<i>Improved attitude towards learning in your students that attend 21st Century Learning program</i>	12	4.1
<i>Overall satisfaction with the services provided this year</i>	12	4.2

PARENT SURVEYS

4 = Strongly Agree	3 = Agree	2 = Disagree	1 = Strongly Disagree
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	N	Mean
<i>The Catapult Learning program helped my child gain confidence</i>	83	3.4
<i>I received adequate information on my child's progress</i>	81	3.5
<i>My child improved in reading (or math) since attending the Catapult Learning program</i>	83	3.5
<i>My child enjoyed participating in the Catapult Learning program</i>	83	3.5
<i>I was satisfied with the Catapult Learning program</i>	83	3.7

<i>I was satisfied with the Catapult Learning program (by response type)</i>	Frequency	Percent
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	--	--
<i>Disagree</i>	--	--
<i>Agree</i>	28	33.7
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	55	66.3
<i>Total</i>	83	100.0

**Houston School District
Parent Survey Comments 2010-2011**

Satisfaction/Improvement Noted:

- Great program, thanks.
- We appreciate all the resources offered to us under this program and are pleased with the level of commitment from the school and the progress that has been made.
- She loved it!
- My child's math has improved greatly since she has been given the extra help.
- I liked the small teacher to student ratio
- My daughter's reading has really taken off 😊 We are very happy this program is offered at our school!
- Great program
- The 21st Century program really helped m son with improving his reading and math skills
- He really liked it!
- My child enjoyed coming to tutorials. He liked the computer program and info covered.
- I could really see her progress in reading and math.
- My daughter is looking forward to next year with the tutoring program.

Suggestions:

- We recommend to send evaluations to parents at least bi-monthly.
- More homework help next year would be nice

Comments:

- He wasn't fond of staying afterschool, but he enjoyed the program!