

Summary of Findings

Dr. David Harriger, EdD., Troy ISD Pilot Study ♦ Spring 2004

Forty-seven at-risk students from grades 7, 8, and 11 participated in a voluntary pilot study to determine the effects of Sleek Software's Incredible Tutor™ program on TAKS scores. The participants were selected based on poor performance on the previous year's state assessment in reading/ELA (7 students), math (38 students), science (1 student), or social studies (1 student).

Students were allotted 8 hours of computer lab access in their content area of highest need. No other help was provided. These 8 hours were provided over five Saturday mornings, ending immediately prior to the administration of the spring 2004 state assessment. Students arrived at Troy High School at 8:30 a.m. each Saturday, at which time each student was offered breakfast and feedback on their previous week's efforts. The students then worked in the lab from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The first Saturday session focused solely on the Incredible Tutor™ pre-test assessment. The second and third sessions centered on prescriptive tutorial sessions provided by the software. The curriculum scope was determined by each student's prior session results, which were evaluated by the project administrator. The fourth session was devoted entirely to the Incredible Tutor™ post-test administration. In the 5th and final session, designed to discuss overall group results, instructors celebrated the collective

success of the program and distributed rewards for perfect attendance. Students did not receive any lab time during session five.

“Overall, thirty-five of the forty-six middle and high school participants (76.1%) passed their content area. These are students who did not pass the previous year!”

The results* from this analysis were significant. Regardless of the gains from the pre-test to the post-test, as determined by the software assessments, it should be noted that twenty of the twenty-one high school participants (95.3%) passed the TAKS subject in which they studied during the pilot. (The remaining student was exempt from the TAKS test.***) Fifteen of the twenty-five middle school participants (60%) passed the TAKS in their content area as well. Overall, thirty-five of the forty-six middle and high school participants (76.1%) passed their

content area. These are students who did not pass the previous year!

The initial results from this pilot warrant further investigation to determine whether students from varied backgrounds and districts can achieve similar levels of success. Sleek Software is currently undertaking a documented study to expand on these results.

** Pre/post measures within the software were evaluated using an F-test to determine significant gains ($f = 0.892$). “Pre,” “post,” and “gain” scores listed below are percentage results from two practice tests from the Incredible Tutor version 8.0.*

*** This student was exempt from taking the TAKS test because of an Admission, Review, and Dismissal committee meeting held prior to selection.*

7th Grade Math

PRE	POST	GAIN	Passed TAKS in Content Area
31	20.8	-11.0	yes
34	41.7	7.7	yes
38	46.5	6.5	no
52	66.7	14.7	yes
48	54.2	6.2	yes
52	58.3	6.3	yes
63	65.4	2.4	no
39	47.3	8.3	yes
37	44.5	7.5	no
60	65.3	5.3	yes

8th Grade Math

PRE	POST	GAIN	Passed TAKS in Content Area
46	50	4	yes
39	48	9	no
32	37	5	yes
49	54	6	yes
37	45	8	yes
42	49	7	yes
56	64	8	yes
37	44	7	no
40	41	1	no
35	38	3	no
43	58	15	no
41	40	-1	no
39	37	-2	no
39	44	5	yes
51	53	2	yes

9th Grade Math

PRE	POST	GAIN	Passed TAKS in Content Area
57	63	6	yes

11th Grade Math

PRE	POST	GAIN	Passed TAKS in Content Area
55.6	58.0	-2.4	no
78.0	73.0	-5.0	yes
60.5	69.0	8.5	yes
44.0	60.4	16.4	yes
44.8	47.0	2.2	yes
44.4	51.0	6.6	yes
39.4	60.9	21.5	yes
55.8	59.4	3.6	yes
67.3	65.0	-2.3	yes
62.3	48.0	-11.7	yes
55.5	68.8	13.3	yes
42.7	53.0	10.3	yes
41.6	46.0	4.4	yes

11th Grade Reading

PRE	POST	GAIN	Passed TAKS in Content Area
45.8	51.0	5.2	yes
46.1	54.0	7.9	yes
63.8	59.0	-4.2	yes
40.0	41.0	1.0	yes
41.6	49.0	7.4	yes
42.4	39.1	-3.3	exempt
58.0	60.0	2.0	yes

11th Grade Social Studies

PRE	POST	GAIN	Passed TAKS in Content Area
63.9	67	3.1	yes

11th Grade Science

PRE	POST	GAIN	Passed TAKS in Content Area
42.7	53	10.3	yes

Standard Deviation Mean

PRE	10.59	36.85
POST	10.80	52.25

SAMPLE SIZE: N=47

FDIST: 0.89

19=HISP 28=ANGLO