

Data Panel Information

Professional Development for Achievement

August 2007

Professional Development for Achievement, Inc. (PDA) was created in 1993 to assist educators at every level, from district personnel to classroom teachers, with instruction of the Sunshine State Standards in reading and writing. The founder, Mary R. Lewis holds her Bachelors Degree in English Education and has worked as an educator in California and Florida. She resides in Tampa, Florida, but works with districts throughout the state to improve the understanding and skills of educators so that they will be better equipped to prepare their students for a future of thinking and writing.

Ms. Lewis employs ten consultants throughout the state of Florida. All of these consultants are personally trained by her and have spent time in the field implementing the techniques of the program for many years.

Michele R. Miller is the Palm Beach County consultant working in area schools. She holds her B.S. in Elementary Education and taught in Broward County for seven years. During that time she implemented the Mary Lewis program and experienced much success with students from various levels.

The program benefits educators and students K through 12. The proven success of the program can be found in district data. When fully understood by administrators and teachers, and implemented appropriately, students learn to become authors through reading text of various genres.

Below is a brief sample of data collected in Palm Beach County. If additional data is desired from other districts, it will be gladly provided.

School:	Combined Writing Score Prior to Program:	Combined Writing Score After Program:		
		'05	'06	'07
Royal Palm Beach Elementary	3.7	4.2	4.1	4.4
Cypress Trails	3.6	NA	4.2	4.2

Frontier Elementary	3.7	NA	4.3	4.3
Golden Groves Elem.	4.0	NA	4.2	4.1
Wellington Elementary	4.0	NA	NA	4.1
Loxahatchee Groves	3.8	NA	NA	3.9

For the past two years, teachers at New Horizons Elementary have identified the need for professional development in writing and the need for a school wide writing program. Data supports that need with fourth graders earning a combined FCAT Writing score of 3.9 in 2006-2007 compared to the district's mean score of 4.0.

The goal is to train teachers at New Horizons Elementary to implement the school wide writing program beginning with second through fourth grade teachers in 2007-2008 and expanding to kindergarten, first, and fifth grade teachers in 2008-2009.