

Curriculum  
Materials

Professional  
Development

Materials  
Support

Assessment

Community/  
Administrative  
Involvement

# Science: *It's Elementary*

June 2008

## Year Two Highlights: Student Achievement Continues to Improve

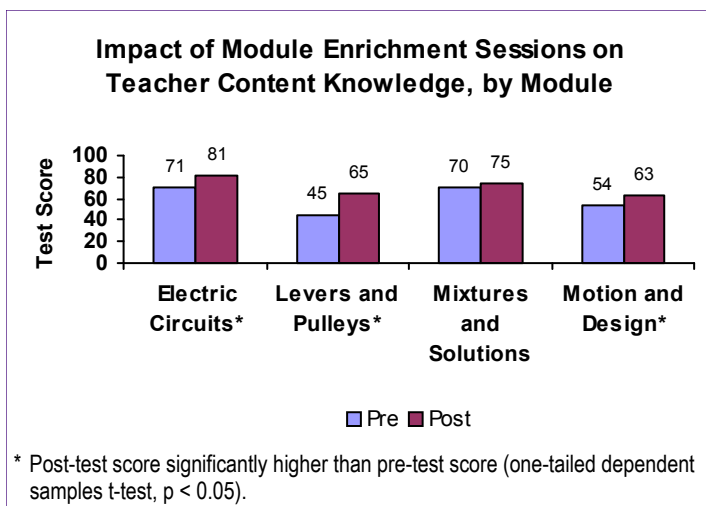
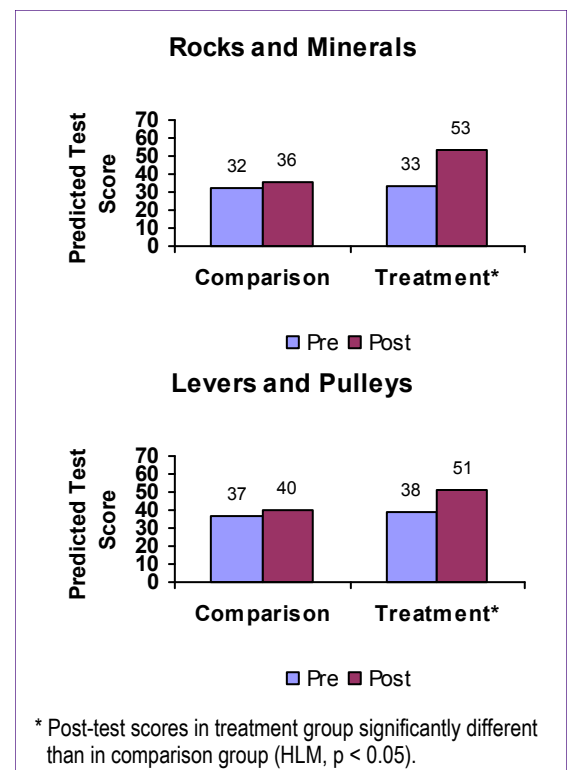
Evaluation results from an independent study of *Science: It's Elementary (SIE)* by Horizon Research, Inc. (HRI) provide evidence that in its second year the *SIE* program continues to have a positive effect on student learning in science.

- ✓ Students receiving instruction on *SIE*-provided modules from teachers who participated in *SIE* professional development scored significantly higher on 5 of the 6 modules than students not receiving instruction via those modules. Differences in post-test scores ranged from 7-47% higher. Pre- and post-test data are shown below for two of the modules.
- ✓ Post-test scores are significantly higher the second time teachers use the module. Depending on the module, students in Year Two gained about 1 to 4 points more from pre- to post-test scores than students in Year One.
- ✓ There was a significant positive relationship between the amount of instructional time spent on the module and post-test scores on both the Rocks and Minerals and Motion and Design modules.

## Module Enrichment Professional Development Improves Teacher Content Knowledge

In Spring 2008 HRI conducted a study on the impact of *SIE*'s "Module Enrichment" workshops on teacher science content knowledge. Module Enrichment sessions targeted teachers who had already attended initial training on a module and implemented the module in the classroom for the second time.

- ✓ Module Enrichment workshops are designed to help teachers better understand science content and become more effective in implementing the module.
- ✓ On assessments administered at the beginning and end of two-day module enrichment sessions, teacher post-test scores were significantly higher on three of the four modules as shown below.



## *SIE* Impacting Schools' Curriculum and Climate

The comments below are excerpts from interviews conducted with a random sample of *SIE* principals:

*"The curriculum is based on the standards and anchors of Pennsylvania. And SIE is aligned to those standards and those anchors. So, it gave us a focus and depth."*

*"It's not just activities for activities' sake, but there is a lot of content learning that is taking place."*

*"I have had 20 teachers go out to a training and every single one of them came back with glowing remarks."*

*"The kids love it (science). They talk about it, they're actually really engaged in it and...that makes it worth it to everybody."*

*"Parents are excited about it. I think the climate of the school has changed. The whole culture and climate is much more positive than it's ever been."*

For details on *Science: It's Elementary* Year Two Evaluation Report, please contact ASSET Inc. at 412-481-7320.