

## Could High Quality Teacher Professional Development Help Close the Achievement Gap?

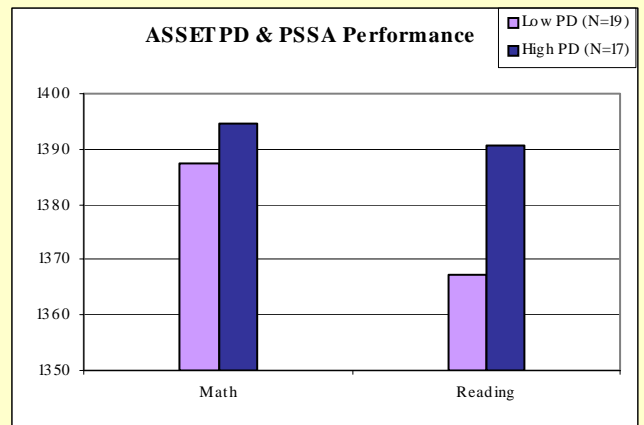
The following is an analysis of fifth grade student achievement of ASSET member districts on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests in math and reading.

### ASSET Professional Development Makes a Difference

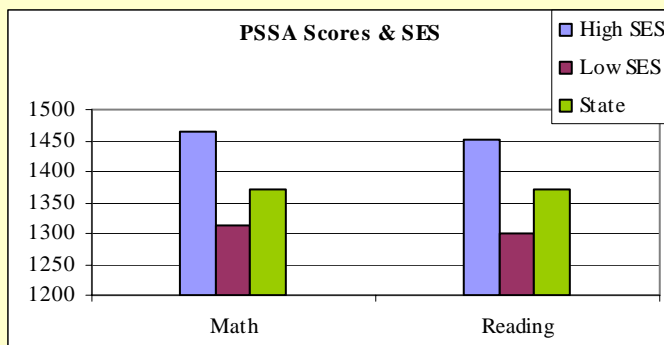
Comparing districts' involvement with ASSET professional development and their PSSA results indicates better performance among districts that involve teachers in more hours of professional development. **The graph to the right shows performance was 8 points higher in math and 24 points higher in reading** in districts where teachers received an average of 2 days of ASSET professional development aligned with standards-based methodology and curriculum materials.

### Professional Development is Essential to Boost Student Achievement

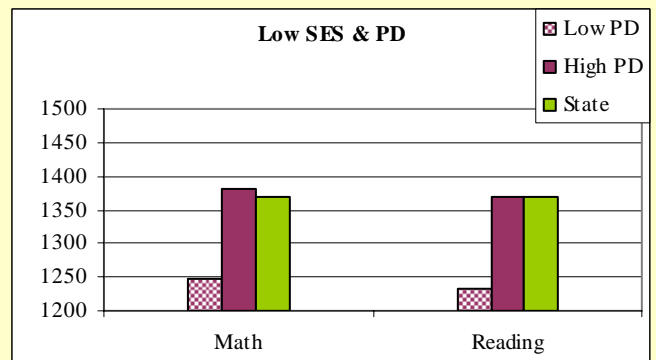
There also is a suggested link between the level of professional development in school districts and the socio-economic status (SES) of their student population. **The graph below reinforces what we already know — that socio-economic status is a significant factor in student performance.**



↑ Average for low PD = 2.5 hours per teacher per year  
 ↑ Average for high PD = 11.4 hours per teacher per year



High SES = high socio-economic status  
 Low SES = low socio-economic status



When you factor in the role of professional development among districts with more than one-third of their student population on free and reduced lunch, **the graph to the right indicates that among less affluent districts, professional development appears to make a noteworthy difference in student achievement.** Performance by the High PD group (8 school districts, 47% SES, 8 hours average PD) is significantly better — **134 points higher in math and 137 points higher in reading** — than that of the Low PD group (7 school districts, 67% SES, 2 hours average PD).

Based upon research conducted by Dr. Kalyani Raghavan at the Learning Research and Development Center, University of Pittsburgh, and ASSET Inc.

