Students do well on achievement tests

A valid achievement test must accurately reflect what is being taught in the classroom while actively engaging the students. California Achievement Tests (CAT) accomplishes both.

To find out what students throughout the country are learning, education specialists worked with CAT developers to review the most widely-used textbooks and basal series, as well as, curriculum guides from almost every state, major district and diocese. Based on their comprehensive analysis, test items were created and reviewed to ensure their appropriateness for all groups.

Educators also helped design CAT materials to make students comfortable so they are more likely to perform at their potential. The test booklets look like the materials students see every day. In addition, practice tests are expanded and improved to ensure that students feel confident with the test before they ever start.

CAT presents instructions in clear, easy-to-follow format, and testing times allow virtually all students to complete items. Most important, CAT helps students succeed by engaging their imaginations and intellectual curiosity with interesting, thought-provoking materials that cover a broad range of subject matters. In short, CAT is sensitive to the test-taking experience of all students - those most advanced are challenged, those less advanced are encouraged.

CAT provides a comprehensive picture of student achievement because of its components that allow teachers to evaluate from the test, performance activities and indicators of achievement. Since the performance assessment assesses student skills in authentic situations. It contributes to the reliability of nationally normed scores and provides integrated outcome scores that cut across several content areas. Also, CAT anticipated achievement combines achievement testing with academic abilities assessment to show whether students are achieving up to realistic expectations.

Because an achievement test provides accurate and useful information about students. The reports present valuable information in different formats to understand the strength needs of students, while helping to plan for effective instruction. They also enhance communication between teachers, parents and administrators because they provide a picture of individual students and group performances.

These assessment activities in Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies add other dimensions to evaluations. They cross content areas at all levels and are concurrently normed. The thematic approach to performance assessment is designed to engage students in real-life situations, allowing for strategic thinking and problem solving.

Based upon realistic scoring scales, an accurate picture of where Dallas students stand in comparison to an appropriate national student sample. The Dallas School District completed the CAT testing program in March, and results have been returned in April for review by administrators, counselors and teachers. The student reports will be sent to the parents at the completion of the evaluation procees by the School District.

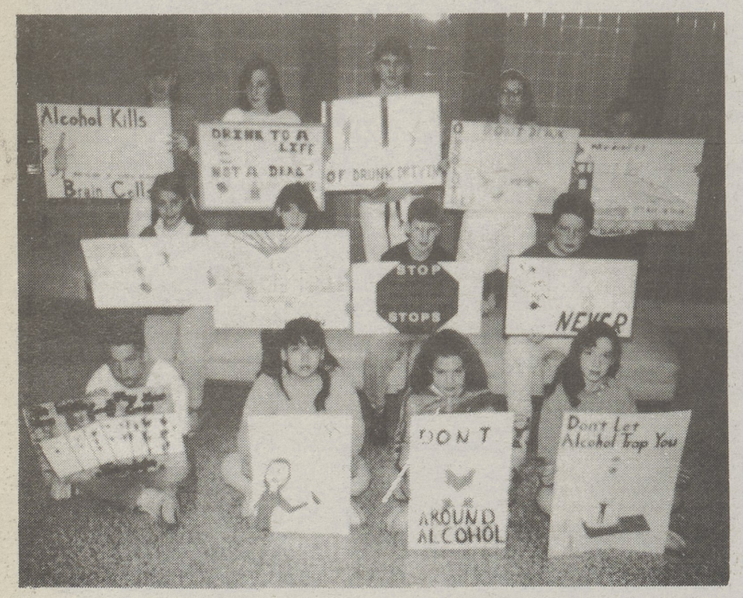
The District evaluation of the scores indicate that from the 144 items that were tested, 77 items or 54% of the items showed an increase from the 1991-92 school year, while 55 items or 38% of the items showed a decrease and 12 items or 8% remained the same.

The mean (average) score of the Dallas students who had taken the Test indicated they scored above the average national percentiles of 50 in all components of the Test. Percentile rank shows the percentage of students in a national sample. For example, if a fifth-grade student scored in the 60 percentile, it would mean that 60% of the fifth graders in the sample received a lower raw score than that particular student. The average score for all students in the same grade will fall above or below the 50th percentile.

The following components of Reading, Language and Mathematics percentiles reflect the Dallas School District:

HOW DALLAS STUDENTS RANK ON CALIFORNIA ACHIEVEMENT TEST

Grade	Reading	Language	Mathematics	Total Battery
1	81	not reported	89	not reported
2	77	82	80	82
3	75	80	84	82
4	75	76	81	79
5	76	69	80	76
6	65	66	75	70
7	69	71	73	73
8	66	61	68	67
9	72	69	71	71
10	66	57	65	63



POSTER ARTISTS - Pictured are fifth through eighth grade students, winners in the P.L.C.B. Alcohol Awareness Poster Contest: First row: Jeremy Granahan, 2nd place Dallas Elem.; Krystal Olivarez, 2nd place Westmoreland; Crystal Rondinella, 3rd place Westmoreland; Segan Millington, 1st place, 6th Gr.
Second row: Norah Krakosky, 1st place Dallas Elem.; Robyn Willauer, 2nd place, 6th Gr.; Dan Fauerbach, 3rd place, Dallas Elem.; Philip Novicki, 1st place Westmoreland.
Third row: Bridget Baines, 2nd place, 7th Gr.; Samantha Blinn, 1st place, 7th Gr.; Greg Jesso, 1st place, 8th Gr.; Carolyn Lubinski, 2nd, place, 8th Gr.; Kevin Frank, 3rd place, 6th Gr. Absent when photo was taken: Tara Oatridge, 3rd place, 7th Gr.

Students design posters

The U.S. Surgeon General announced April as "Alcohol Awareness Month." The theme for April was "Let's Draw The Line," with a focus on underage drinking. Adjunct to the national program, Pennsylvania designated April as "Youth Alcohol Awareness Month."

This was intended to specifically focus on promoting increased awareness of underage alcohol related problems in Pennsylvania's communities. As part of this program all Dallas students in fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades were invited to design posters which communicated the message.

All winning posters were sent to Harrisburg as part of the statewide contest and to be included in the statewide traveling alcohol education displays.

Parents, PTO make Earth Day a success

The faculty and staff give a resounding thanks to the P.T.O. and parents who worked together to make Earth Day a fascinating success at Dallas Elementary School.

Chairpersons for the event were Lois Noble, Alice Droppers, and Mary Blase. Eight stations created and manned by parent volunteers were set up in the school's all-purpose room. The stations included a rain forest, a science experiment demonstrating what particular chemicals can do to the earth's water supply, recycling, a village designed by Brownie Troop 649, a game to demonstrate the interdependence of all life on our planet, and how children can help our endangered species. The students had the opportunity for an enjoyable, interesting, and intensive learning experience.

A special guest was Representative Phyllis Mundy who presented a letter from Governor Robert Casey to the school and stated that she was pleased to see an example of the Dallas School District's commitment to environmental education and parent involvement.

The volunteers who worked for the Earth Day Program were: Kathy O'Brien, Debbie Jury, Ruth Peters, Bonnie Hiscox, Joan Luksa, Mike Case, Arlene Case, Cathy Fauerbach, Colleen Murphy, Mary Kay Covert, Mary Epley, Lori Besecker, Marjorie Adams, Lorraine Simons, Mary Ann O'Donnell, Dorie Zinn, Kathleen Savage, Elizabeth Lloyd, Sandy Race, Donna King, Joyce Pace, Paula Opel, Helene Gurdin, Barbara Dukas, Paulette Wolanski, Jo Carol Buckley, Karen Arnaud, Sally Emmanuel, Lois Macri, Ruth Petrow, Debbie Carey, Tina Shiber, Christy Lindbuchler, Cheryl McCue, Pat Eckert, Judy Dickson, Marilyn Kester, Russell Kobel, Jim Jury, and Madelyn Rudolph.

Appreciation is also given to Rave's Garden Center, Unigraphic Color, Mozip Printing, and Humphries Children's Apparel for materials loaned and donated.

Drug/alcohol educator speaks at Middle School

On Wednesday, April 28, Mr. Jeff Thaxton, a well-known drug and alcohol educator, presented programs in Dallas Middle School and Dallas Senior High School.

The program presented to grades 6, 7, 8, as well as to grades 9 and 10 focuses on the theme, "Love your parents, not drugs." Mr. Thaxton, using magic tricks and conversation, as well as music, got the attention of his audience. Then he began to relate stories about his family and other people he has known who have been adversely affected by drug and alcohol abuse. Throughout his message, he encourages students to listen to their parents and teachers.

The program presented to 11th and 12th graders was a special one, tailored to drinking and driving because of the upcoming prom. He used several real life examples of students he knew personally and their tragic deaths. The principals of the senior high school and the middle school feel that Jeff Thaxton had an impact on the students.

Kindergarten enrollment stable

The Dallas School District has completed its kindergarten registration for the 1993-94 school year. The number of students enrolled for kindergarten is presently 151. The district usually registers an additional 20 students during the summer months.

Our kindergarten registration numbers are similar to the registration numbers over the past 6 years (see chart). This information suggests a stable enrollment for the Dallas School District.

Having kindergarten registration during the month of March provides the district the opportunity to make adequate plans for adjusting its staffing plans for the coming year.

The Dallas School District urges the parents of any kindergarten aged student, who has not already enrolled, to register their children with Mrs. Susan Farr as soon as possible.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

YEAR	INITIAL REGISTRATION
1988-89	160
1989-90	121
1990-91	158
1991-92	144
1992-93	154

The Dallas Reporter

The Dallas Reporter Dallas, PA Wednesday, May 26, 1993

A Newsletter for the residents and friends of the Dallas School District

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT
DALLAS, PENNSYLVANIA

SCHOOL CALENDAR
1993-94

FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS	SEPTEMBER 8
LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS	JUNE 15
HOLIDAYS	
LABOR DAY	SEPTEMBER 6
THANKSGIVING	NOVEMBER 25-29
CHRISTMAS	DECEMBER 23-31
PRESIDENT'S DAY	FEBRUARY 21
EASTER	MARCH 31-APRIL 4
SPRING BREAK	APRIL 5-6
MEMORIAL DAY	MAY 30

SHOULD SCHOOLS BE CLOSED ON SCHEDULED PUPIL DAYS DUE TO SNOW OR EMERGENCY CONDITIONS PRIOR TO March 30, 1994, THE SCHEDULED SPRING BREAK WILL BE USED AS MAKE-UP DAYS ACCORDING TO THE LISTED SNOW EMERGENCY DAYS.

SNOW EMERGENCY DAYS	
FIRST SCHOOL DAY	APRIL 6
SECOND SCHOOL DAY	APRIL 5

TEACHER IN SERVICE DAYS (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)	
SEPTEMBER	7
OCTOBER	11
FEBRUARY	18

EARLY DISMISSAL/ACT 80 DAYS	
SEPTEMBER	28
NOVEMBER	9
JANUARY	17
APRIL	12
MAY	20

PARENT CONFERENCES	NOVEMBER 15 & 22
PARENT CONFERENCES	APRIL 18 & 20

SEPTEMBER 1993

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
(6)	[7]	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	(28)	29	30	

OCTOBER 1993

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
[11]	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

NOVEMBER 1993

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	(9	10	11	12
[15]	16	17	18	19*
[22]	23	24	(25)	(26)
(29)	30			

DECEMBER 1993

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	(23)	(24)
(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)

JANUARY 1994

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
(17)	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

FEBRUARY 1994

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4*
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	[18]
(21)	22	23	24	25
28				

MARCH 1994

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	(31)	

APRIL 1994

M	T	W	T	F
				(1)
(4)	(5)	(6)	7	8
(11)	(12)	13	14	15*
[18]	19	[20]	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

MAY 1994

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	(20)
23	24	25	26	27
(30)	31			

JUNE 1994

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	[8]	9	10
13	14	[15*]	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

▭ TEACHER IN-SERVICE ○ SCHOOLS CLOSED
( ) EARLY DISMISSAL * REPORT CARDS-ELEM
△ END MARKING PERIOD EL, SEC - CONFERENCES

NOVEMBER 11-VETERANS DAY JANUARY 18-MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

	TEACHER DAYS	STUDENT DAYS		TEACHER DAYS	STUDENT DAYS
SEPTEMBER	18	17	FEBRUARY	19	18
OCTOBER	21	20	MARCH	22	22
NOVEMBER	19	18	APRIL	17	16
DECEMBER	16	16	MAY	21	21
JANUARY	21	21	JUNE	11	11
				185	180

#SECONDARY REPORT CARD ISSUE DATES SET BY PRINCIPALS

Schools will open after Labor Day

The Board of School Directors for the Dallas School District at its regular May meeting adopted the 1993-94 school calendar. This school calendar has school beginning after the Labor Day Holiday. It is comprised of 180 school days for students and 185 days for teachers.

The first day of school for students is September 8, 1993. Elementary parent conferences are scheduled for November 15, 1993 and April 18, 1994. Secondary parent conferences are scheduled for November 22, 1993 and April 20, 1994.

Seniors will graduate June 15

Dallas Senior High School Class of 1993 will graduate on Tuesday, June 15, 1993, 6:00 p.m. in the stadium, weather permitting. The class of 93 is made up of 84 girls, and 91 boys, and upon successful completion by the Dallas School District and the Department of Education, they will graduate. Senior exams have been scheduled for June 7, 8, and 9, 1993. Baccalaureate services are scheduled for Sunday, June 13, 4:00 p.m. at the Dallas Middle School. Reverend Safko of Gate of Heaven, Dallas will officiate. The senior banquet will be held on Monday, June 14, at the East Mountain Inn.

The academic awards for seniors were awarded at the Honors Banquet at the Irem Temple Country Club on Tuesday, May 18. At that time, the Valedictorian and the Salutatorian were announced.

They are: Valedictorian, Becky Yurko; Salutatorian, Karen Wisnieski.

■ **What is Outcome-Based Education?** *pg 2*

■ **Students do will on achievement tests.** *pg 4*

■ **Computer systems expanded, upgraded.** *pg 3*

Dallas School District
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