

The Learning Network® has been providing professional development services to the Battle Creek School District since the 1999-2000 school year. Our work with the district, which is in a medium sized city and serves more than 8,000 students, started with two schools and has now expanded to every elementary school in the district, including Title I schools.

Among the schools joining The Learning Network was Post Elementary School. This K-5 school has close to 250 students, and in recent years more than 80% of the school's students have received free or reduced-price lunches. The school has a high-mobility, multi-ethnic student population, of which about half the students are white, one-third Afro-American, and one-tenth Hispanic.

Geri Williams, The Learning Network staff developer who has been working with Post since 2000, began implementing **The Learning Network®** model by reviewing the school's assessment data with a school leadership team consisting of the principal and two teacher leaders, as well as other staff. Key elements of action plan they developed and implemented have included:

- Development of teacher leaders who coach other staff members within the school
- Consistent data collection, as well as analysis and planning at quarterly data conferences
- Intensive support from The Learning Network in 2003-04, including biweekly visits.
- Attendance at The Learning Network's annual conference and Summer Institutes.

As shown in the attached graph, one result of this work has been significant and consistent improvement in the school's 4th grade reading scores on the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) test. Highlights include:

- The number of students at level 2 (met expectations) increased from 29% to 79%
- The number of students at level 1 (exceeded expectations) increased to 7%
- The number of students at level 4 (not endorsed) decreased rapidly to 0%.

Scores on the writing portion of the MEAP test also improved significantly, and by 2004 the 4th grade students at Post scored well above both the state and district averages. The number of students at Post who achieved level 2 scores (met expectations) was 69%, compared to 44% of the students in the district and 48% of the students in the state. And as with the reading scores, 0% of the Post students were at level 4 (not endorsed).

