

*Prentice Hall
Science Explorer*

**National
Effect-Size Study
Executive Summary**

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Science Explorer National Effect-Size Study Executive Summary:

An Evaluation of Student Performance of Prentice Hall Users vs. Non-Users

Background

Prentice Hall retained the services of Gatti Evaluation, Inc., an independent research firm that designs and performs evaluations of the effects of educational programs on student performance, to conduct a large-scale, national study on the impact of Prentice Hall Science Explorer on student achievement levels.

Study Design

The quasi-experimental study design examined longitudinal test results of 337 *closely matched* user and non-user districts as a point of comparison across the same time periods and achievement tests. Six states* were examined as part of the study. Because each state test is unique and measures different standard benchmarks, the analysis measured national percentile ranking (NPR), and percent of students meeting or exceeding state standards. *Note: 57% of districts included in this study were urban districts as defined by NCES (National Center for Education Statistics).*

Matched Districts

Districts were matched based on the following demographic characteristics:

- similar metropolitan location (i.e., urban, suburban, rural)
- enrollment, ethnicity (i.e., percent white/Caucasian school aged children)
- relative wealth (i.e., percent receiving free or reduced priced lunch)
- time period in which the two groups were studied
- methods used to collect outcomes

Goals

The main goal of the study was to quantify the comparative impact of *Prentice Hall Science Explorer* on district Science achievement for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. The results may be used to answer critical questions for potential users such as:

- How likely are school districts that adopt *Prentice Hall Science Explorer* to see immediate gains in Science achievement on state sponsored norm referenced and criterion referenced tests?
- Are districts that adopt *Prentice Hall Science Explorer* as likely or more likely to see achievement gains as similar non-users districts?

Results

Overall, **77% of districts that adopted Prentice Hall Science Explorer saw a significant increase from pre- to post- implementation in student achievement levels.** On average, the percentage of Prentice Hall users meeting state standards increased from 45% to 61%, whereas matched districts increased from 45% to 57%.

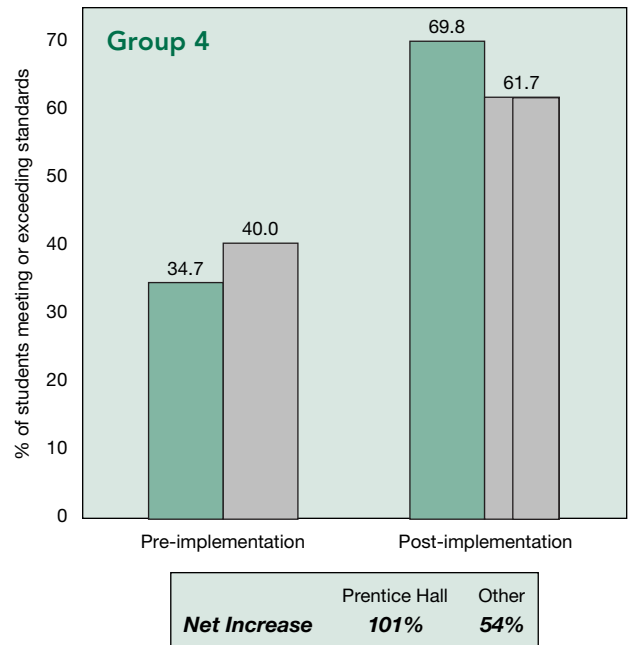
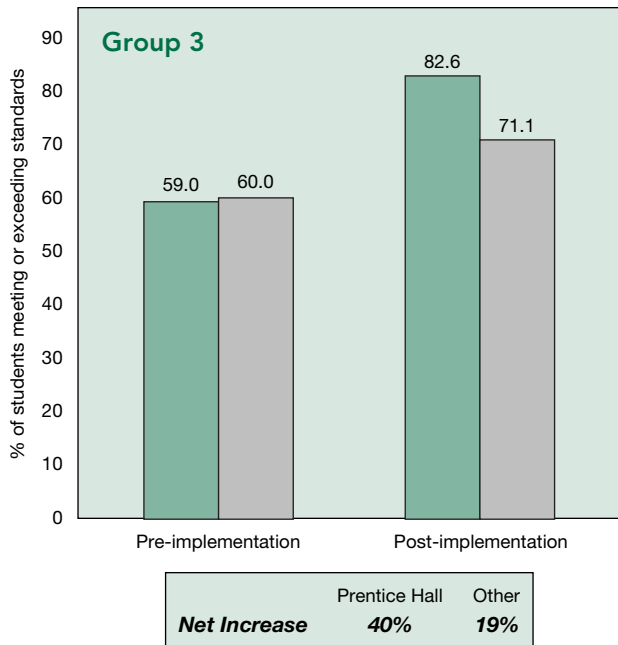
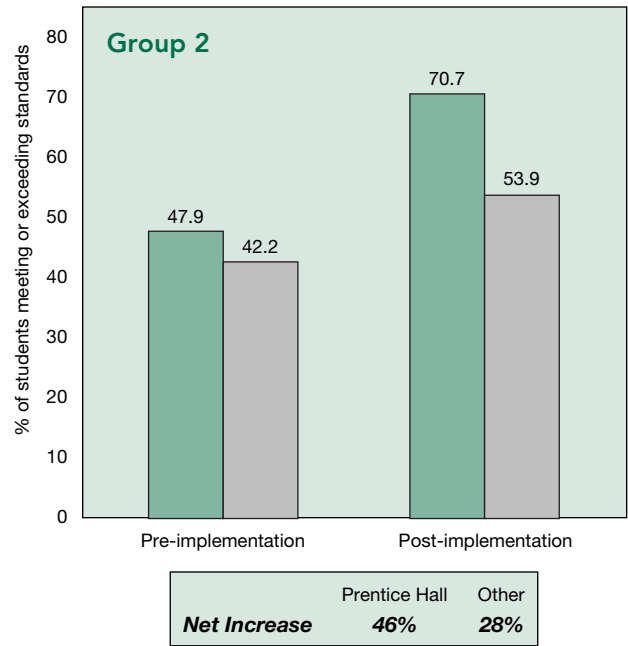
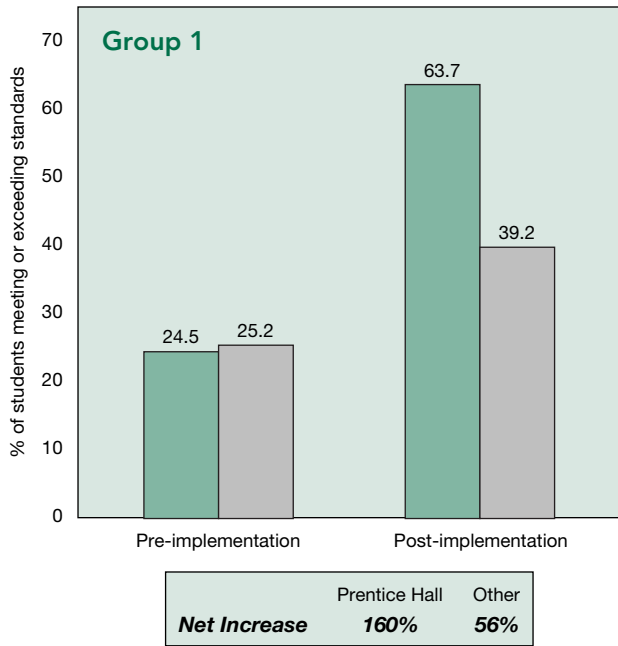
*States included in the study: AL, IL, MI, MO, OH, WI

If these results are generalizable, they indicate:

- Districts adopting *Prentice Hall Science Explorer* are likely to see immediate gains in science achievement outcomes.
- Districts adopting *Prentice Hall Science Explorer* are as likely or more likely to see statistically significant achievement gains as similar non-user districts.

Research indicates: *Prentice Hall Science Explorer* is bringing more students up to state standards and increasing district rankings.

Science Explorer National Effect-Size Study Highlights



Key: ■ Prentice Hall
 ■ Other

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