

Author: George Brian Toth

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Wenfan Yan

Dissertation Committee Members: Dr. Cathy Kaufman  
Dr. David Piper

The purpose of this multi-year, quantitative study was to use existing data to determine if the Pennsylvania Achievement Gap Effort (PAGE1) was significantly effective or not in increasing student achievement in mathematics and literacy over a three year time period for economically disadvantaged students for the 16 PAGE1 schools as compared to 16 significantly similar schools selected based on socioeconomic status, demographics, school grade level structure and student population size. The grade levels compared were grades 5, 8 and 11. Although additional grades are tested today, all three of these grade levels were the only grade levels tested in the baseline year of 2004. PSSA individual student scaled scores were provided for testing years 2004 (baseline), 2005, 2006 and 2007 for each of the 32 schools and access to the data was made available by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the secure eMetric database web site. Student names and identification numbers were not made available. Access to the data was authorized by Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Dr. Gerald Zahorchak in support of this study to evaluate the impact of PAGE1 on increasing student achievement.