

**SUMMARY OF PROJECT OUTCOMES
FROM
EE&SSS SCHOOLS' FINAL REPORT DATA**

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Introduction. When project implementation began in the fall of 1998, the schools each identified desired project outcomes they wished to track for the school year. The summary is based on project outcome data each school provided in its final report in June 1999. The project outcomes in the summary have been labeled as *student achievement*, *student discipline referrals*, *teacher participation*, *parent/community volunteers*, and others such as *student surveys* or *teacher surveys*. The summary was prepared for distribution to the Department of Education, the Regional Service Projects, the State Education and Environmental Roundtable, the Department of Education, and interested others.

Region II

Columbia County Schools

Eastside ES (4th grade focus, in addition to fourth/fifth grade dropout prevention and ESE classes, one fifth grade class, and one second grade class)

Student Achievement. On *FCAT Reading*, 51% of the fourth graders achieved Level 3 in 1999 compared to 46% in 1998, and met the state's higher performing criteria in 1999.

Parent/Community Volunteers. More than twenty parent and community volunteers participated in eco-area workdays at the school.

Marion County Schools

Belleview MS (whole school focus)

Student achievement. Ninety-one percent of eighth graders met or exceeded a rating of 3 on *Florida Writes!* in 1999 compared to 77% in 1998. "Evidence from teacher lesson plans and teacher survey results indicated that the trail is being used for many writing activities," (Final Report, p. 4).

Teacher participation. In March 1999, twenty-five teachers attended a two-day EE&SSS project inservice. The subject areas the participants represented are: Language Arts, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science, Social Studies, Special Education, and The Arts.

Parent/Community Volunteers. Fifty parent and community volunteers participated in a trail workday.

Nassau County Schools

Atlantic ES (whole school focus)

Student Achievement. For the annual Science Fair, a number of students prepared environment-based projects.

Parent/Community Volunteers. Twenty-two parent and community volunteers participated in a nature trail workday on June 5 at the school.

Yulee Primary School (whole school focus)

Student Achievement. First-grade student projects about bats were completed and displayed in the school library. Kindergarten classes learned to spread mulch around newly-planted vegetation, and learned the benefits of mulch for conserving moisture and retarding weed growth. First and second grade classes planted flowers in the school's butterfly garden, and learned about host and nectar plants.

Parent/Community Volunteers. Volunteers from Americorps, Amelia Island Plantation, Inc. the U.S.S. Nebraska, and the Veterans' Association supplied the labor to construct wooden walkways, learning kiosks, bat houses, and benches for the project.

St. Johns County Schools

St. Augustine HS (10th grade academy focus)

Student Achievement. Nine weeks and semester grades were monitored for the academy's fourteen tenth grade students. Only one student was removed from the academy for a failing grade in Algebra II. The minimum academy requirement is at least a 2.5 gpa.

Teacher Participation. During 1998-99, the teacher team developed and used interdisciplinary units of study with environment (marine studies) as the integrating context. All academy teachers participated in an "Alternative Assessment Methods" workshop given by the district math/science coordinator in early 1999.

Region III

Indian River County Schools

Sebastian River HS (academy focus)

Student Achievement. Eighty-seven of ninety academy students successfully completed an individual Issue Investigation project as a requirement for their English and Vocational classes. The products of the investigations were a written report, a display board, and an oral presentation. Academy students planned and conducted an Earth Day program for third graders at a local elementary school. The program included five learning stations on environmental topics such as recycling and reuse.

On *FCAT Reading*, 23% of the academy's tenth grade students achieved at least a Level 3 in 1999, and 38% achieved at least a Level 3 on *FCAT Math*. Of the school's six academies, the Environmental Studies Academy students demonstrated the highest percentages of Level 3 or above on both sections of the *FCAT*.

Orange County Schools

University HS (10th-12th grades project focus)

Student Discipline Referrals. Two hundred and two 10th grade through 12th grade students participated in the Greenway project, which was the school's EE&SSS project. They included 22 Resource Management Academy students (10th grade), 90 Environmental Science students (11th-12th grades), 30 Social Science students (10th grade), and 60 Communications students (10th-12th grades). The students represented 9% of the school's 10th-12th grade student enrollment. For the Greenway project students, the *tardiness referral rate* for 1998-1999 was 2.5% compared to 13.3% for all 10th-12th grade students. The *unauthorized absence referral rate* for Greenway project students was 1% compared to 30% for all 10th-12th grade students. For Greenway project students, the *insubordination referral rate* was 0% compared to 5.7% for all 10th-12th grade students.

Region IV

Hillsborough County Schools

Dowdell MS (magnet program focus)

Program Growth. Eighty percent of the school's faculty and students will be part of the magnet program in 1999-2000 compared to 50% in 1998-1999.

Teacher Survey. Twelve, or 48%, of the twenty-five survey questionnaires were completed and returned. The survey results are summarized as follows. Forty-four per cent reported between two and four years of experience in their certification field. Fifty percent have attended from four to six environmental education training events. Fifty

percent reported they “feel very familiar with environmental programs and curriculum,” (Final Report, p. 10).

J.S. Robinson ES (whole school focus)

State and District Awards. “A Growing Concern”, which is the school’s EE&SSS project, was awarded first place (schoolwide category) in the Governor’s Award for Excellence in Economic Education, and second place for school economic education in the District Superintendent’s award program.

Lee County Schools

Alva ES (4th grade focus)

Student Achievement. Seventy-one percent of fourth graders met or exceeded District standards on *Florida Writes!* expository writing in 1999 compared to 48% in 1998, and on narrative writing, 84% in 1999 compared to 47% in 1998.

Student Opinion Survey. In 1999, 83% of fourth graders reported they learn outdoors compared to 48% in 1998.

Gateway Magnet ES (whole school focus)

Student Achievement. In 1999, 66% of fourth grade students made a composite score of 3 or better on *Florida Writes!*, an increase of 7% over 1998. On *FCAT Reading*, 67% of the fourth grade students achieved Level 3 or higher in 1999, an increase of 3% over 1998. On *FCAT Mathematics*, 49% of the fifth grade students achieved Level 3 or higher in 1999, an increase of 6% over 1998. Additional evidence of student performance was seen in weather data collection (2nd grade), Cornell University bird feeder data collection (4th and 5th grades) and animal track box data collection (5th grade).

Teacher Survey. Seventeen, or 45%, of the thirty-eight surveys were completed and returned. Forty-seven percent reported teaching interdisciplinary (3 or more subject areas), integrated units monthly, an increase of 20% over last year. Fifty-two percent reported teaching integrated units quarterly, an increase of 32% over last year. In 1999, the median number of integrated units that were taught was five. For integrated units, reading and writing were the most frequently reported subject areas. The second most frequently mentioned subject area was mathematics. The two most frequently reported environmental topics in the units were recycling and cycles.

Region V

Martin County Schools

Hobe Sound ES (whole school focus)

Student Opinion Survey. Fifth grade students reported on what they enjoyed most about the environmental education unit. The most frequent responses mentioned reading the book, *The Missing Gator of Gumbo Limbo*, writing water poems, and learning about water use and the water cycle.

Teacher Participation. Nineteen teachers participated in an environmental education workshop in January 1999. The grade levels that had most representation were Kindergarten, first, second, and third grades.

Miami-Dade County Schools
Cutler Ridge MS (7th grade focus)

Student Achievement. Seventy-seven percent of all student workgroups designed and completed web pages on a topic concerning the environment of south Florida.

Teacher Participation. All four members of the teacher team developed interdisciplinary units with environment (south Florida ecosystems) as the integrating context.

KSA/ 7-99

Environmental Education and the Sunshine State Standards Schools (PreK-12) 1998-99

