The PLAN Student Observation Scale (PLAN-SOS) was developed to measure the percentage of time that students spend performing various behaviors judged to be important to the learning process in the system of individualized instruction upon which Project PLAN is based. An earlier document reported the use of this instrument in comparing PLAN students with students in other instructional systems. This document reports its use and adaptation in comparing various groupings within the set of PLAN classes—groupings based on grade-level, teacher experience in writing PLAN curriculum materials, and instructional organization (team vs. self-contained). The 20 categories of student behavior included in PLAN-SOS are clustered into seven groups which correspond to major emphases of the teacher training program, thus enabling the instrument to provide feedback directly relevant to the training and development of PLAN teachers. According to a systematic procedure of observation and analysis, paired and carefully trained observers (one focusing on students, the other on teachers) collected data in each of the classrooms under study. Results revealed no significant differences between PLAN groups in terms of the variety and kinds of activities engaged in and considered essential characteristics of the process of individualized instruction. (Also included are differences revealed by the instrument, although not at the statistically significant level, and an outline of the observer training program.) (JES)
VARIETIES OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR
IN PROJECT PLAN

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Title III
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Development Project

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In order to assess the classroom behavior of PLAN students relative to students in other instructional systems, the PLAN Student Observation Scale (PLAN-SOS) was developed. The purpose of PLAN-SOS is to measure the percentage of time that students spend performing various behaviors judged to be important to the learning process in a system of individualized instruction.

Many student observation scales have been developed for a variety of specific uses. Some have been designed to record the occurrence of a circumscribed set of student classroom behavior such as attending behavior (Walker & Buckley, 1968), study behavior (Hall, Lund, & Jackson, 1968), and disruptive behavior (Thomas, Becker, & Armstrong, 1968). Other scales have been constructed to examine a broader group of behaviors. Spaulding, for example, developed "A Coping Analysis Schedule for Educational Settings" (CASES) to record both verbal and non-verbal behaviors in the affective domain (Simon & Boyer, 1967). Another scale was developed by Lindvall specifically for the observation of students in an individualized system of instruction (Simon & Boyer, 1967).

PLAN-SOS was designed to correspond to the training program for teachers of PLAN classes (see Steen, Quirk, and Lipe, 1969, for a description of the training program).

In an earlier paper (Lipe, Quirk, & Steen, 1969), comparisons between classrooms of PLAN and Control students were presented. It was found, as predicted, that PLAN students spent more time than Control students working alone on various learning activities, that PLAN students spent more time than Control students in individual instruction with their teachers, and that PLAN students spent more time than Control students in learning activities with their peers. Contrary to predictions, PLAN students did not
spend more time than Control students in planning and developing strategies to follow a Program of Studies.

The purpose of this paper is to present comparisons between various groupings within the set of PLAN classes. For comparison purposes classrooms are grouped by grade level, by teacher experience writing PLAN curriculum materials, and by instructional organization of the classroom, i.e., team vs. self-contained.

Brief Description of PLAN-SOS

Listed below are the 20 categories of the PLAN-SOS. They represent the end product of the development of mutually exclusive and exhaustive categories that observers may employ to reliably and usefully describe activities of PLAN students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category Description</th>
<th>Category Number</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WORKING ALONE ON</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer materials</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>The student fills out a computer request card.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning materials</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>The student checks off a TLU activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning equipment</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>The student is listening through headphones to a record.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>The student is writing an essay answer to a test.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERACTING IN A GROUP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending to the teacher</td>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>The student is watching the teacher work a problem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending to a student</td>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>The student is attending to another student in the group who is asking a question.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Talking or performing (7) The observed student is answering a question asked by the group leader.

INTERACTING WITH THE TEACHER
Content behavior (intra TLU) (8) The student asks the teacher for the meaning of a word in his TLU.

Process behavior (extra TLU) (9) The student answers the teacher's question about how far he has progressed in his Program of Studies.

Silent attending (10) The student listens to the teacher explain something to him.

INTERACTING WITH A PEER
Content behavior (intra TLU) (11) The student asks another student how to work a math problem.

Process behavior (extra TLU) (12) The observed student tells another student where to find a book.

Silent attending (13) The observed student attends to another student who is asking a question.

PLANNING LEARNING STRATEGIES OR PROGRAM OF STUDIES (14) The student and teacher are discussing the student's Program of Studies.

TRANSITIONAL BEHAVIOR
Walking (15) The student is walking from his desk to the bookcase.

Waiting for the teacher (16) The student is standing in line at the teacher's desk.

Other waiting (17) The student is waiting to use a tape recorder.

Locating or organizing materials and equipment (18) The student is putting earphones on his head.

NON-PRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOR
Interacting (19) The student is describing to another student the details of a TV program.

Not interacting (20) The student is gazing out the window.
The 20 categories of PLAN-SOS are clustered into seven groups which correspond to the major emphases of the teacher training program. These include training teachers to teach children how to manage their own classroom behavior (Categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 12, 13, and 18), training teachers how to work with small groups of children (Categories 5, 6, and 7), training teachers how to work individually with children (Categories 8, 9, and 10), and training teachers how to teach children to plan their own studies (Category 14). Categories nine and 12, "Process Behavior," represent tutoring sessions which focus on problems of organizing the student's work and preparing for the learning activities. Categories 8 and 11, "Content Behavior," represent tutoring sessions which focus on problems of the actual learning activities themselves.

Training Classroom Observers to Use the Scale

Four observers were trained to use the PLAN-SOS and the training procedure was replicated with a second group of four observers. All observers in both groups were women. Those in the first group ranged in age from 23 to 35; their education ranged from one year of college to one and one-half years of graduate study. Two had had no teaching experience, one had taught three years in public school and one observer had taught five years. The second group ranged in age from 25 to 41. One had attended college for three years and the other three each had earned a Bachelor's Degree. The number of years teaching experience represented in the group was none, one, two, and four years.

A brief outline of the training program is presented in Table 1. The objective of the observer training was to attain inter-observer reliability of .85 or better as quickly and economically as possible. Observers were given extensive practice categorizing first written narratives describing student
behavior and then observing and categorizing actual student classroom behavior. Training included frequent assessment of observer progress and feed-back regarding observer successes and solutions to observation problems. Observers were given practice in all levels of PLAN classes and also in all corresponding levels of non-PLAN classes.

Following the training of each group a reliability study of the instrument was conducted. Scott's \( \pi \) was employed as the statistic to assess reliability (Flanders, 1967). Reliabilities of Group I observers are presented in Table 2 and those of Group II observers are presented in Table 3.

Data Collection

For a complete description of the observed population see the paper by Quirk, Steen, and Lipe (1969). The distribution of Project PLAN classes is presented in Table 4.

Each classroom of this study was observed on three separate occasions each for 20 minutes to provide a total of one hour's observation on each class of students. A pair of observers entered each classroom. One member of the pair observed and recorded teacher behavior; the other observed and recorded student behavior. The student observer systematically scanned the classroom, observed and recorded the behavior of a different student every five seconds until every student's behavior had been recorded once, and then rescanned the classroom observing every student a second time. This process was repeated for the duration of the 20 minute observation period.

Data Analyses

Comparisons among groups of classrooms within PLAN are presented in Tables
The tables show the percentage of time spent in all 20 categories of behavior and in six grouped categories. Mann-Whitney U values were computed for those categories in which the differences between percentages of a pair of comparison groups were five percent or greater. In the comparisons among three groups, Kruskal-Wallis H values were computed for the categories in which the difference of any pair of groups was five percent or greater. Since there were no predictions regarding the directionality of differences, two tailed tests were applied to the U and H values.

Comparison of PLAN Students: Primary vs. Intermediate vs. Secondary Levels

Tables 5 and 6 present the data comparing levels of PLAN students. The Kruskal-Wallis H test was significant regarding category 3, category 18, the combined Transitional category (15+16+17+18), and the combined Non-productive category (19+20). In category 3, Working Alone on Learning Equipment, primary level PLAN students spent significantly more time than intermediate level PLAN students and the latter spent significantly more time than secondary level PLAN students. In category 18, Locating and Organizing Materials and in the combined category for Transitional behavior (15+16+17+18), both primary level students and intermediate level students spent significantly more time than secondary level students. Secondary students, however, spent significantly more time than both intermediate level students and primary level students in category 19, Non-productive behavior (19+20).

An interesting finding in this section regards the inverse relationship between the amount of time spent working alone on learning equipment and level of PLAN student. The higher the level of the students, the less time was spent working alone on learning equipment. There is no basis at this time,
however, for presenting as a future hypothesis that this relationship is generally true. The finding that secondary level students spent more time than the lower levels of students in non-productive behavior, on the other hand, has guided the emphases and direction of the teacher training during the current year. Likewise, the current teacher development program includes new techniques for reducing the amount of time all levels of students spend locating and organizing materials and in other transitional behavior.

Comparison of PLAN Students: Level One vs. Level Two

Level one students were experiencing their first year in school as well as their first year in PLAN. Level two students, in addition to experiencing their second year of school, were, in many cases, also experiencing their second year in PLAN. Comparisons between PLAN level one and level two students are presented in Table 7. The only significant difference was that level one students spent more time than level two students working alone on learning equipment.

Comparison of PLAN Students: Students of First Year PLAN Teachers vs. Students of Second Year PLAN Teachers (all levels)

Thirty-six of the teachers in 1968-69 PLAN classes were in their first year of PLAN teaching and twenty-two were teaching PLAN for their second year. The comparison of first year PLAN teachers with second year PLAN teachers are presented in Table 8. In none of the categories are the differences between groups equal to or greater than five percent. No tests of group differences, therefore, were applied.
Comparison of PLAN Students: Students of AIR-PLAN Teachers vs. Students of non-AIR-PLAN Teachers

In the development phase of Project PLAN participating school districts each year send teachers to AIR in Palo Alto to write curriculum materials for those grade levels that will be added to the project the following year. We wanted to know whether spending a year writing curriculum materials would influence the effect teachers had on student behavior in PLAN classes as measured by the SOS.

Comparisons between those groups of teachers are presented in Table 9 and none are significant.

Comparison of PLAN Students: Students of Team Teachers vs. Students in Self-Contained Classrooms (Primary and Intermediate Level Students Combined)

At the primary and intermediate levels, 26 PLAN teachers worked in teams sharing responsibilities for their combined classrooms. The other 16 teachers at those grade levels taught in self-contained classrooms.

The comparisons between students of team teachers and students in self-contained classrooms are presented in Table 10. Again there were no categories in which differences between groups equalled or exceeded five percent and, therefore, no test of significance was applied.

Discussion

It is noteworthy that many of the comparisons between groups of students within PLAN were not significant. Primary, intermediate, and secondary students, for example, did not significantly differ in the amount of time spent working
alone, interacting in a group, interacting with the teacher, or interacting with peers. None of the comparisons on two dimensions of teacher experience yielded any differences in measured student classroom behavior. And, finally, the distributions of student activities were almost identical in classrooms of team teachers as in self-contained classrooms.

On one of the assessed dimensions of teacher experience, i.e., whether or not the teacher has spent a year at AIR writing PLAN curriculum materials, the lack of differences perhaps can be attributed to the lack of similarity between curriculum writing skills and teaching skills. Even though a teacher has spent a year writing PLAN Teaching-Learning-Units in one subject area to be used in his classroom the following year, he is not necessarily going to be better prepared than other teachers to teach students in all four subject areas of PLAN. It should also be pointed out that, at the time of the observations, all teachers had had almost eight months experience teaching PLAN classes. Even though differences between groups were not identified to exist in the spring of the school year, it is possible that such differences did exist the previous fall. The intensive inservice training of individual teachers by field consultants in areas of each teacher's special needs also may have been a factor in eliminating differences if difference had existed earlier in the year.

It is by definition a characteristic of an individualized classroom that a variety of activities be occurring at any one time. If students' needs differ, then it is to be expected that learning activities in accordance with those needs also will differ. The wide variety of activities commonly occurring in any one PLAN classroom at one time also may contribute to the lack of significant differences between groups of classrooms. It is well documented that a wide range of measured abilities is typically represented in a school's grade level.

The areas where differences were found between compared groups have served to guide the emphases of the training program for PLAN teachers this academic year.
REFERENCES


Table 1

Brief Outline of the Observer Training Program

I. Pre-training Orientation Session (about two hours)
   A. Complete the "First Practice Trials Categorizing Student and Teacher Behavior".
   B. Read "Operational Definitions of Student Behavior Categories".
   C. Peruse materials describing Project PLAN.

II. Orientation to Project PLAN Classrooms (about one-half day)
   A. Take a clip board with stop watch and observation forms.
   B. In several PLAN classrooms the trainer will point out examples of the student behavior categories as they occur.

III. Simulated Practice (about one-half day)
   A. Practice categorizing written examples of student behavior.
   B. Practice tallying responses and computing Scott's ω.

IV. Practice Observation with Frequent Feed-back (as needed)
   A. In pairs, in a functioning classroom, discuss student behavior (about five minutes).
   B. Independently categorize student behavior (two minutes).
   C. Compare and discuss categorization decisions.
   D. Repeat B and C for about 20 minutes.
   E. Outside the classroom discuss unresolved questions and problems with the trainer.

V. Trial Reliability (as needed)
   A. In pairs, independently observe students in diverse classrooms for about 20 minutes each.
   B. Computer observer reliability in each classroom.

VI. Formal Reliability Study of the Instrument
Table 2
Observer Reliability
PLAN-SOS
Group I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level Observed</th>
<th>Observer Pair</th>
<th>Project PLAN classes</th>
<th>Traditional classes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary (Grades 1 &amp; 2)</td>
<td>A-B</td>
<td>.96 .92</td>
<td>.86 .96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C-D</td>
<td>.93 .99</td>
<td>.73 .88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate (Grades 4, 5, &amp; 6)</td>
<td>A-C</td>
<td>.95 .76</td>
<td>.95 .90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-D</td>
<td>.98 .82</td>
<td>.96 .60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary (Grades 9 &amp; 10)</td>
<td>A-D</td>
<td>.95 .88</td>
<td>.86 .93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-C</td>
<td>.53 .98</td>
<td>.89 .95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3
Observer Reliability

PLAN-SOS

Group II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level Observed</th>
<th>Observer Pairs</th>
<th>Scott's $\pi$</th>
<th>Project PLAN classes</th>
<th>Traditional classes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary (Grades 1 &amp; 2)</td>
<td>A-B</td>
<td>.88 .82</td>
<td>.74 .72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C-D</td>
<td>.90 .97</td>
<td>.98 .91</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate (Grades 4, 5, &amp; 6)</td>
<td>A-C</td>
<td>.93 .81</td>
<td>.89 .95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-D</td>
<td>.93 .93</td>
<td>.93 .93</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary (Grades 9 &amp; 10)</td>
<td>A-D</td>
<td>.80 .74</td>
<td>.00 .86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-C</td>
<td>.90 .93</td>
<td>.64 .67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4

Distribution of Project PLAN and Control Classrooms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Project PLAN Classrooms</th>
<th>Control Classrooms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Classrooms by Grade Level</td>
<td>Number of Classrooms</td>
<td>Number Randomly Selected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 English</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number Observed for One Hour</td>
<td>12 12 12 12 12 12</td>
<td>10 11 10 11 11 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number Observed for One Hour</td>
<td>4 4 4 4 4 4</td>
<td>5 5 5 5 5 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 5

Comparison of PLAN Students: Primary vs. Intermediate vs. Secondary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>PLAN Primary Students (N=21 classrooms)</th>
<th>PLAN Intermediate Students (N=21 classrooms)</th>
<th>PLAN Secondary Students (N=16 classrooms)</th>
<th>Kruskal-Wallis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Alone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Comp. mat.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Learn. mat.</td>
<td>5393</td>
<td>35.66</td>
<td>5742</td>
<td>37.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Learn. equip.</td>
<td>1013</td>
<td>6.69</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>3.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Tests</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>3.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interacting in a Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Attend. to tch.</td>
<td>907</td>
<td>5.99</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>4.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Attend. to stud.</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>2.07</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>2.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Talk. or perf.</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interacting with Teacher</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Content beh.</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Process beh.</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Sil. att.</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>3.22</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>2.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interacting with Peers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Content beh.</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>3.65</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>3.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Process beh.</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Sil. att.</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>2.61</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>2.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Plan. learn. strat.</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Walking</td>
<td>1628</td>
<td>10.76</td>
<td>1574</td>
<td>10.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Wait. for tch.</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>561</td>
<td>3.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Other wait.</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Loc. or org. mat.</td>
<td>1630</td>
<td>10.78</td>
<td>1667</td>
<td>11.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-productive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Interacting</td>
<td>978</td>
<td>6.46</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Not interacting</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>4.03</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>3.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alone (1+2+3+4)</td>
<td>6475</td>
<td>42.82</td>
<td>6967</td>
<td>46.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group (5+6+7)</td>
<td>1396</td>
<td>9.23</td>
<td>1092</td>
<td>7.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher (9+9+10)</td>
<td>797</td>
<td>5.27</td>
<td>674</td>
<td>4.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer (11+12+13)</td>
<td>1004</td>
<td>6.64</td>
<td>1043</td>
<td>6.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans. (15+16+17+18)</td>
<td>3786</td>
<td>25.03</td>
<td>3835</td>
<td>25.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-prod. (19+20)</td>
<td>1643</td>
<td>10.86</td>
<td>1560</td>
<td>10.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL (1 through 20)</td>
<td>15120</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>15120</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* *p < .05
** *p < .01
Table 6
Comparison between Levels of PLAN Classrooms on categories for which the overall Kruskal-Wallis H Tests were Significant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Mann-Whitney U Test (two tailed)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Primary Level vs. Intermediate Level</td>
<td>Intermediate Level vs. Secondary Level</td>
<td>Primary Level vs. Secondary Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Working Alone on Learning Equipment</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>2.23*</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Locating and Organizing Materials</td>
<td>218.5</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Non-productive Interaction</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Transitional (15&amp;16&amp;17&amp;18)</td>
<td>210.5</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Non-Productive (19&amp;20)</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p < .05
**p < .01
### Table 7
Comparison of PLAN Primary Students: Level 1 vs. Level 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Student Observation Scale</th>
<th>Mann-Whitney</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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Table 8
Comparison of Students of First Year PLAN Teachers with Students of Second Year PLAN Teachers (all Levels)

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Table 10
Comparison of PLAN Students of Teachers in Team Teaching vs. Self-Contained Classrooms (Primary and Intermediate Level Students Combined)

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<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Percent</td>
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