

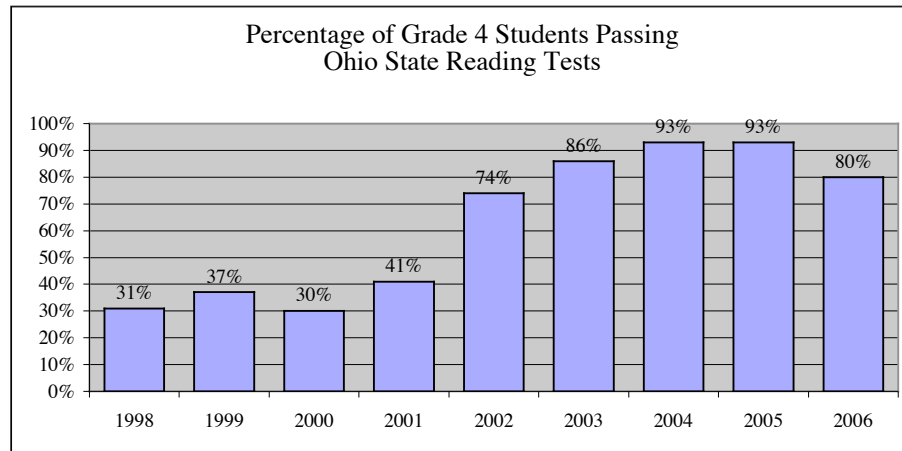


About the School:		About the Students:	
Grades:	K-6	African American:	35%
Number of Students:	208	Caucasian:	47%
Test(s):	Ohio Proficiency and Ohio Achievement	Hispanic:	12%
Reduced Price Lunch:	100%	Asian:	-
		Other:	6%
		ELL:	-



Cleveland School Keeps Reading Mastery as Curriculum Core

Grade 4 students at Louisa May Alcott Elementary School who have used *Reading Mastery* and *Language for Learning* since Kindergarten are achieving excellent results on state reading tests. The percentage of the school's Grade 4 students passing the Ohio Proficiency Test in 2002 more than doubled compared to Grade 4 students who took the test in 1998 without the benefit of these two Direct Instruction programs. By 2006, 80% of Grade 4 students passed the reading portion and 100% passed the writing portion of the Ohio Achievement Test.



* In 2006, scores dropped slightly due to an influx of new students.

Because students have progressed so well on state tests, including subgroups of children, the school achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) from 2002 through 2006. All students at this school are economically disadvantaged, yet the percentage passing reading has increased – reaching an all-time high of 93% in 2004 and 2005.

At the Beginning

When Louisa May Alcott Elementary School opened for the 1997–1998 school year after being closed for 16 years, it had no curriculum, no common methodology, and teachers who did not know each other.

Educators decided to make Direct Instruction the core of their reading curriculum. Principal Maureen Berg said once teachers were trained in the program, they felt confident and proficient in teaching reading.

“Our full adoption began with the 1998–1999 school year, and once students were exposed to the program, we began to notice improvements in reading proficiency scores,” Berg said.



“The reason for high achievement on these tests is that *Reading Mastery* has improved students’ ability to read technical information,” Berg said. “We believe Direct Instruction is an outstanding methodology.”

Direct Instruction Programs Help All Students

Now Direct Instruction’s *Reading Mastery* is used school-wide in Grades K–6. *Language for Learning*, a vocabulary development program, is used in Kindergarten and Grade 1, and *Corrective Reading* is used with struggling readers in Grades 4–6.

“We think Direct Instruction is phenomenal for all kids,” Berg said. “About 23% of our children are classified as students with disabilities, and we know the program has made a tremendous difference for them.”

Berg said teachers have experienced positive success stories with Direct Instruction since the school opened. One touching story is that of a 10-year-old who had suffered brain damage in a car accident. Direct Instruction succeeded where other programs failed.

“She read to me in front of the entire class,” Berg said. “She could finally do what all the other kids had been doing for years.”

In addition, Berg said Direct Instruction works well with older children who are non-readers. “We absolutely believe in the programs. Direct Instruction is the most critical component of our balanced literacy curriculum.”

Multiple Awards

Louisa May Alcott Elementary has received multiple awards for its academic success.

To receive Ohio’s School of Promise Award, at least 50% of the students must meet low-income criteria, and at least 75% must pass reading or math proficiency tests. Louisa May Alcott Elementary received Ohio’s School of Promise Award for academic achievement in math in 2002, and for academic achievement in reading and math in 2003 and 2004.

The school also won three national awards for the 2003-2004 school year: the No Child Left Behind National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award, the Title I Distinguished School Award, and the Help One Student to Succeed (HOSTS) National Exemplary Award for its outstanding efforts in mentoring at-risk students.

“We absolutely attribute these recognitions to Direct Instruction,” Berg explained. “I totally believe in it, as do our teachers.”



About Louisa May Alcott Elementary School

Serving approximately 208 students in Grades K–6, this school’s student population is 47% Caucasian, 35% African American, 12% Hispanic, and 6% multicultural. Thirty-six percent of the student body is made up of students with disabilities, and 100% qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. For more information about Louisa May Alcott Elementary School, please visit www.cmsdnet.net/schools/elementary/alcott.htm.

For More Information

If you would like to learn more about success with Direct Instruction programs in your school or district, please contact us today at **1-888-SRA-4543**.