



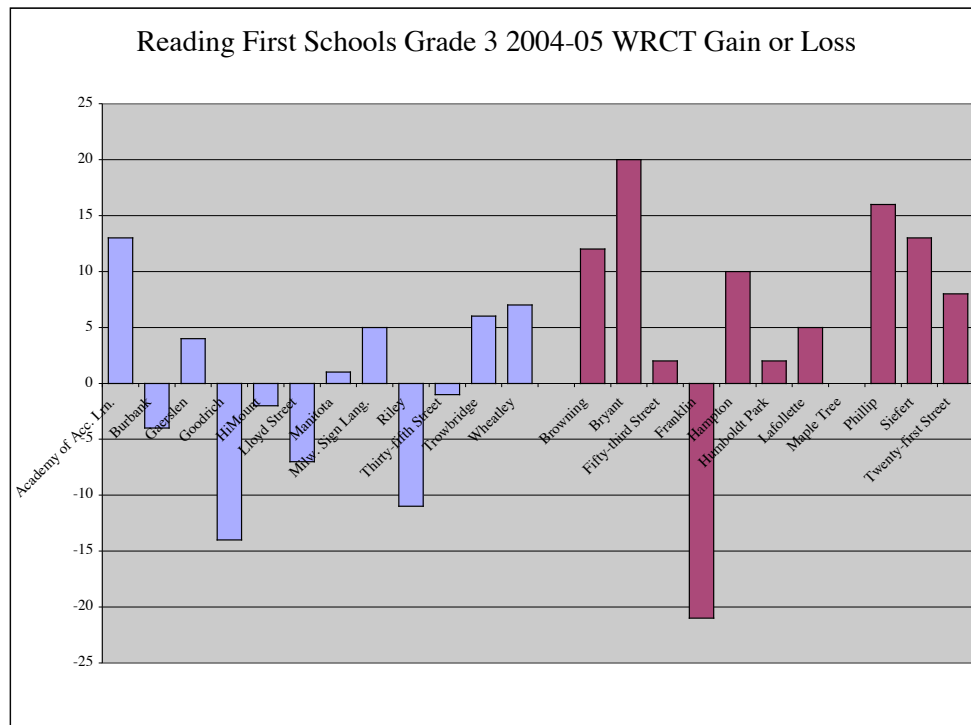
About the District:		About the Students:	
Grades:	PreK-12	African American:	60%
Number of Students:	95,000	Caucasian:	18%
Test:	WRCT	Hispanic:	17%
Reduced Price Lunch:	77%	Asian:	4%
		Native American:	1%
		ELL	9%



## Direct Instruction Helps Milwaukee Schools Increase Reading Scores

Direct Instruction had a direct impact on reading scores of Milwaukee elementary students using the program. Of the 23 elementary schools chosen to participate in a Reading First Grant in 2003, 11 schools implemented SRA/McGraw-Hill's Direct Instruction reading programs that fall, and the remaining 12 schools chose other programs.

After students in all schools took the Wisconsin Reading Comprehension Test (WRCT) in 2004 and 2005, it became clear that students in the 11 Direct Instruction schools achieved a higher average gain from 2004 to 2005 than students in non-Direct Instruction schools. Direct Instruction schools demonstrated an average gain of 6 percentage points, while non-Direct Instruction schools showed an average gain of -0.3 percentage points.



The first group represents non-Direct Instruction schools, and the second group is Direct Instruction schools.

Bryant Elementary School experienced the largest average gain on the WRCT between 2004 and 2005. In 2004, 59% of students scored Proficient or Advanced, and in 2005, that percentage rose to 79.



Doris Bisek, District Direct Instruction Specialist, said the dramatic increase occurred because teachers at Bryant and at other achieving schools implemented the Direct Instruction model with fidelity.

“Teachers, coaches, and principals received rigorous training, additional on-going training, and in-class coaching,” she said. “Lesson progress was exemplary, and low-achieving students received extra reading sessions. The research-proven design of Direct Instruction programs, along with the explicit, systematic instruction by teachers leaves no child behind,” she added. “All the elements of reading are taught to mastery every day. In Milwaukee, Direct Instruction is obviously successful, as the test scores indicate. It is not a question of ‘does Direct Instruction work,’ but ‘are we willing to do what it takes to make it work successfully.’ ”

Several Milwaukee elementary schools began adopting Direct Instruction’s *Reading Mastery*, *Language for Learning* and *Corrective Reading* in 1996. Bisek said reading scores continue to rise.

“Direct Instruction has made a big difference for Milwaukee Public School children. It not only has improved students’ reading proficiency, but it has also played a big role in improving their self-esteem. Once they feel confident in reading, they feel confident in other academic areas.”

Direct Instruction has made such a positive impact that more than two-thirds of the schools in the district now use *Corrective Reading* with at-risk students. Bisek said charter schools surrounding Milwaukee are following suit.

“Educators in Appleton and Verona are beginning to adopt Direct Instruction because of Milwaukee’s success,” she said. “In fact, these charters are fully implementing the programs in reading, spelling, writing, and math.”

#### **About Milwaukee Public Schools**

This district serves more than 95,000 students in Grades Pre-K–12: 60% African American, 18% Caucasian, 17% Hispanic, 4% Asian, and 1% Native American. Seventy-seven percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. For more information about Milwaukee Public Schools, visit [www.milwaukee.k12.wi.us](http://www.milwaukee.k12.wi.us).

#### **For More Information**

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

---