



About the School:		About the Students:	
Grades:	PreK-7	African American:	93%
Number of Students:	244	Caucasian:	6%
Test(s):	Ohio Achievement	Hispanic:	-
Reduced Price Lunch:	61%	Asian:	-
		Other:	1%
		ELL	-



## Old West End Academy Grade 3 Students Score 100% on Ohio's Reading Test

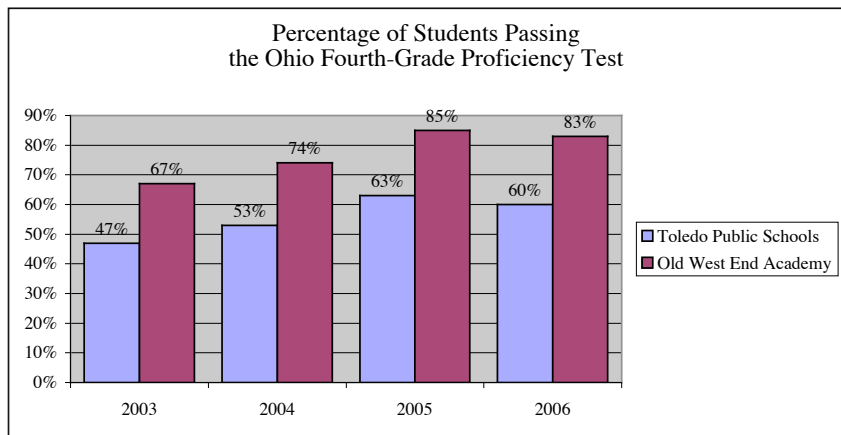
Teachers at Old West End Academy were thrilled, but not surprised, when Grade 3 students scored 100% on the Ohio Reading Achievement Test the first time it was administered in spring 2005. Not only did students outscore the district average of 66%, but they also achieved the district's highest reading scores. That same class scored 100% again the following year as Grade 4 students on the writing test.

Academy educators credit SRA McGraw-Hill's Direct Instruction with student success. The Academy uses several Direct Instruction programs in Grades K–6: *Reading Mastery*, *Reading Mastery Plus*, *Language for Learning*, *Language for Thinking*, and *Reasoning and Writing*, which teachers use as a supplement. After students in Grade 5 and 6 complete *Reading Mastery Plus*, they move on to *Open Court Reading*, another SRA program.

Tiffani Conner, Direct Instruction Facilitator for Old West End Academy, said teachers have always had the expectation that their students can succeed despite the high level of those categorized as economically disadvantaged.

"Failure is not an option," she said. "A lot of these children come to school with situations we would not have imagined, yet they work hard and rise to the occasion. We instill in them the attitude necessary to succeed, and Direct Instruction guides that principle."

Grade 4 students continue to score well in reading too. Eighty-three percent passed the Ohio Reading Achievement test in 2006, compared to 60% district-wide. Even though this test is different from the previous Fourth Grade Reading Proficiency Test, Grade 4 scores continue to climb, up from 74% in 2004 (the highest score in the district), and 67% in 2003.





### **Strong Parental Involvement**

Conner said the staff provides intense reading instruction and encourages parental involvement both in and out of the classroom.

“Parents sign a contract each school year that stipulates they will put academics first, support the teachers, help with homework, read to their children every night, and volunteer 10 hours each year in the building – five in the classroom, and give in another area, such as the library or cafeteria,” she said.

Parents who choose to be in the classroom weekly even help with Direct Instruction.

“If parents come in on a regular basis, teachers will train them so they can participate in paired reading or fluency practice with struggling students,” she said.

### **Making an Impact**

Old West End Academy has fewer than 10 special-needs students, who each have Individual Education Programs (IEPs). One little boy had an IEP for several years, but by Grade 4, teachers felt he didn’t need it anymore.

“Direct Instruction had a lot to do with his improvement,” Conner said. “The consistent vocabulary and comprehension exercises made a huge difference for him. Now he is progressing nicely in other subjects and has even made the honor roll.”

After Conner taught Direct Instruction’s *Reading Mastery* to a learning disabled Grade 1 student for one year, she never expected the kind of reaction she would get from the little girl’s mother.

“I asked her to read to her mother one day in the classroom,” she explained. “As she was reading the passage, her mom began to sob. She said she never thought her daughter would be able to read even a few words, much less read a story out loud to others. It wasn’t long before the other adults in the room were weeping too.”

### **About Old West End Academy**

Since its opening at the start of the 2001-2002 school year, Old West End Academy has expanded from Grades Pre-K–3 to Pre-K–7 and serves roughly 244 students: 93% African American, 6% Caucasian, and 1% multicultural. Sixty-one percent qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. For more information about the school, visit [www.tps.org/index.cfm?Article=632](http://www.tps.org/index.cfm?Article=632).

### **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**.

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