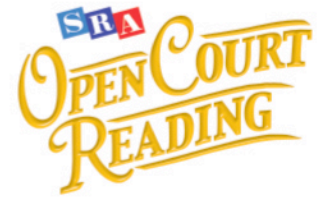


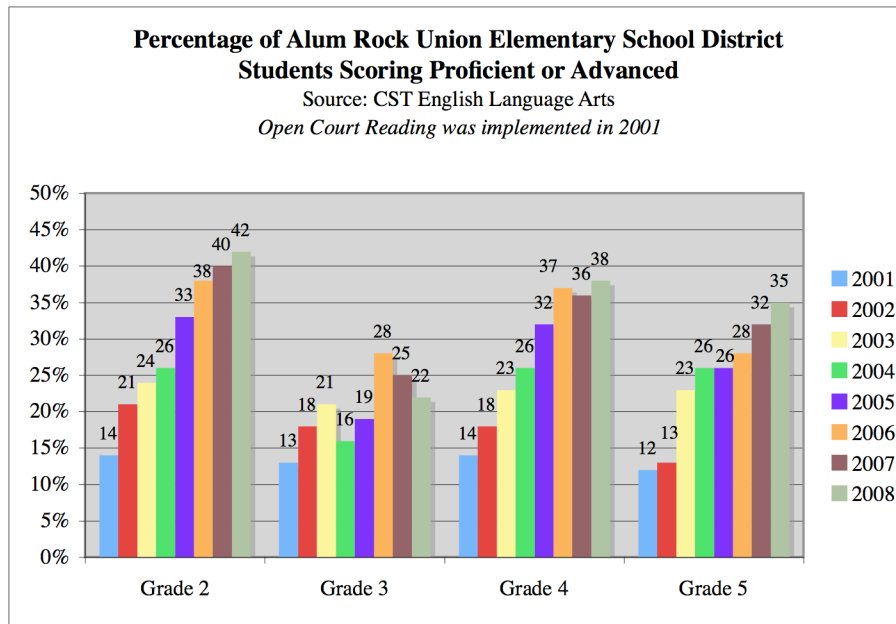


About the District:		About the Students:	
Grades:	PreK-8	African American:	2%
Number of Students:	13,628	Caucasian:	2%
Test(s):	CST	Hispanic:	78%
Reduced Price Lunch:	80%	Asian:	10%
		Other:	8%
		ELL:	64%



Achievement Gap Begins to Close in California School District with Open Court Reading

SRA/McGraw-Hill’s *Open Court Reading* is one of the key reasons why the reading achievement gap among all students is closing in the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District. Before the program was adopted district-wide in Grades K–5 in September 2001, only 14% of students in Grade 2 scored Proficient or Advanced on the English Language Arts portion of the California Standards Test (CST). By 2008, a record 42% of students scored at that same level.



Nora Guerra, the district’s assistant superintendent of instructional services, said there’s no doubt the increased scores are because of *Open Court Reading*, which was part of a district-wide transformation in the English Language Arts instructional program.

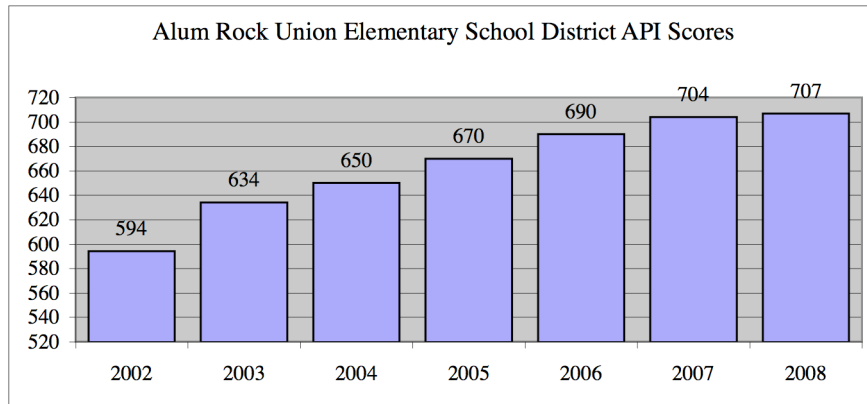
“We’re very happy with the adoption,” she said. “We have found teachers who implement the program fully and with fidelity have the best success in their classrooms. When I visit our schools, I see teachers following the curriculum very carefully and re-teaching concepts when necessary. Their students are definitely engaged; the kids are actually raising their hands to answer questions.”

Guerra said one particular component of *Open Court Reading* has made a big difference in all schools, especially those previously labeled Under-Performing: its focus on phonemic awareness.



“The program really helps children understand phonemes. They learn the sounds, decode words, and apply their phonemic awareness to reading. They aren’t just memorizing words; they are learning to read, which makes them feel really good about themselves,” she said.

In addition to higher test scores, the district’s Academic Performance Index (API) has increased since *Open Court Reading* began. The API measures academic performance and progress of California schools and is a numeric index that ranges from a low of 200 to a high of 1000.



The program began in 2001, but districts didn’t receive API scores until 2002. From 2002 onward, Alum Rock’s API scores have increased each year.

In 2008, Alum Rock Union Elementary School District began piloting SRA’s latest reading program, *Imagine It!* district-wide and plans to fully implement the program this school year.

About Alum Rock Union Elementary School District

Serving more than 13,600 students in Grades Pre-K–8, this district’s student population is 78% Hispanic, 10% Asian, 7% Filipino, 2% Caucasian, 2% African American, and 1% Pacific Islander. Ninety percent of the students qualify for free and reduced-price lunch, and 64% are English Language Learners. For more information about Alum Rock Union Elementary School District, visit www.arusd.org.

In 2007, Alum Rock Union Elementary School District received the *Pride of SRA Academic Recognition Awards*. In 2008, Superintendent Norma Martinez was selected as an Administrator of the Year in the category of Superintendent, by Region 8 of the Association of California School Administrators. To see Norma and her fellow educators share their *Open Court Reading* success story, check out the *Pride of SRA* video at SRAonline.com.

For More Information

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