



About the District:		About the Students:	
Grades:	PreK-12	African American:	-
Number of Students:	2,500	Caucasian:	98%
Test(s):	CRCT	Hispanic:	1%
Reduced Price Lunch:	40%	Asian:	-
		Other:	1%
		ELL:	-



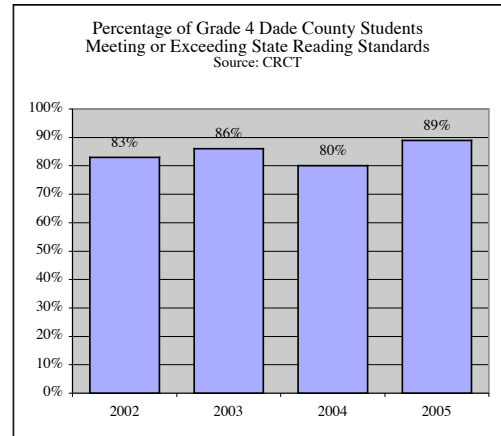
Georgia District Uses Open Court Reading to Reach Record Reading Scores

When the state of Georgia labeled Davis Elementary School (one of two elementary schools in Dade County) as Needs Improvement from 1999 to 2001 because of low test scores, teachers rallied to change the way they taught reading. They adopted SRA/McGraw-Hill’s *Open Court Reading* in Grades K-5 at the start of the 2002-2003 school year, and teachers at Dade Elementary School followed suit the following year. By 2005, 89% of Grade 4 students district-wide met or exceeded state reading standards on the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) in 2005, up from 83% in 2002 before *Open Court Reading* began.

Professional Development is Key

Davis Elementary Instructional Coach Cece Tillman said the district provided more than 300 hours of *Open Court Reading* and other professional development to teachers from 2002-2005 and continues to do so.

“We feel that a significant reason why our students have success with *Open Court Reading* is because of our fidelity to the program,” she said. “Professional development allows us not only to meet with educators, answer their questions, and model lessons, but it also teaches them how to meet the needs of children who are either ahead of the game or behind.”



Tillman said *Open Court Reading* provides commonality within a building, including systematic vocabulary. “If you want to close the achievement gap among struggling readers, the answer is systematic vocabulary,” she said. “We lay the vocabulary groundwork in Kindergarten when we’re working on think-alouds. By Grade 3, our students are so used to this concept that they seamlessly apply it when they read silently.”

According to Tillman, systematic vocabulary begins with professional development. “Once teachers learn the common language, they understand the strategies embedded within *Open Court Reading*, and everything comes full circle. When you take a strong program, add good professional development, and teachers who are committed, you can’t go wrong.”



About Dade County Schools

Serving nearly 2,500 students in Grades Pre-K-12 in five schools, this district's student population is 98% Caucasian, 1% Hispanic, and 1% multicultural. Forty percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-priced lunches. For more information about Dade County Schools, visit www.dadecountyschools.org.

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**.