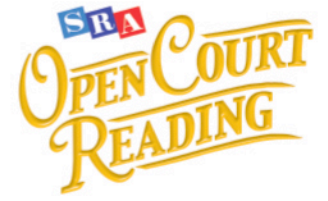




About the District:		About the Students:	
Grades:	PreK-12	African American:	21%
Number of Students:	1,836	Caucasian:	64%
Test(s):	CTBS-5, DIBELS, GRADE	Hispanic:	5%
Reduced Price Lunch:	56%	Asian:	1%
		Other:	9%
		ELL	2%

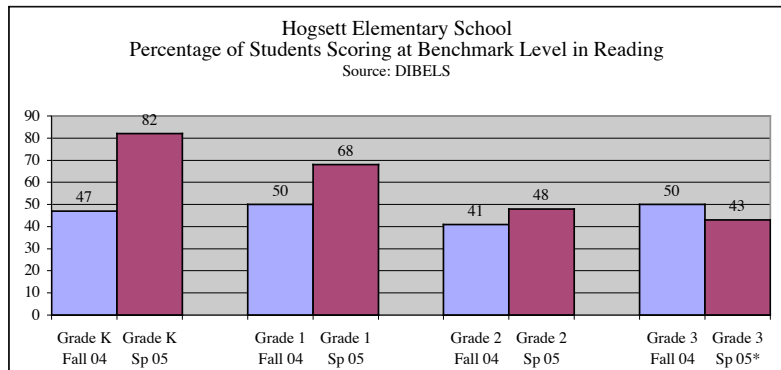


Two Danville Schools Achieve Top 10 Most Improved Status After Using Open Court Reading for Nine Months

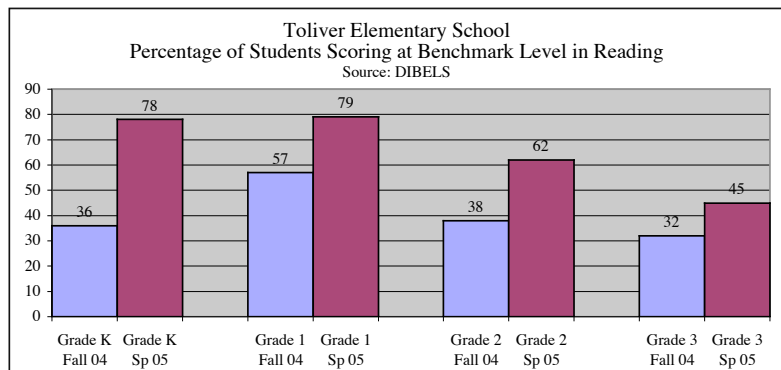
Nine months after two Reading First elementary schools in Kentucky's Danville Independent School District implemented SRA/McGraw-Hill's *Open Court Reading* and *Reading Mastery*, they both ranked in the state's Top 10 Most Improved Reading First Schools.

At the start of the 2004-2005 school year, administrators at Hogsett Elementary School and Toliver Elementary School used Reading First grant money to purchase *Open Court Reading* for all students in Grades K-3 and *Reading Mastery* for struggling students in those same grades.

Of the 74 Kentucky schools that received Reading First grants for the 2004-2005 school year, Hogsett Elementary School ranked in the Top 10 Most Improved Schools for Group Reading Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation (GRADE) scores, and Toliver Elementary School ranked for Dynamic Indicators of Basic Literacy Skills (DIBELS) scores. Kentucky requires that all Reading First schools use those two tests to assess students.



**The Grade 3 DIBELS test measures oral reading fluency. The benchmark is 77 wpm in fall and 110 wpm in spring. In the spring of 2005, eight students (16%) in the strategic category read a 100 wpm or higher, narrowly missing the 110 wpm benchmark.*





In addition to improved scores on DIBELS and GRADE, students at Hogsett and Toliver increased their national percentile rankings on the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (CTBS-5). Grade 2 students were tested in spring 2004 before *Open Court Reading* and *Reading Mastery* began. That same group of students was tested again in spring 2005 after experiencing both programs in Grade 3.

Danville’s Director of Elementary Education Sandy Embree said, because students in both schools achieved such incredible progress in just nine months, the district’s other elementary school (Jennie Rogers School), which isn’t eligible for Reading First money, adopted both programs in Grades K-3 at the start of the 2005-2006 school year. The summer before each implementation, teachers underwent nearly 60 hours of professional development.

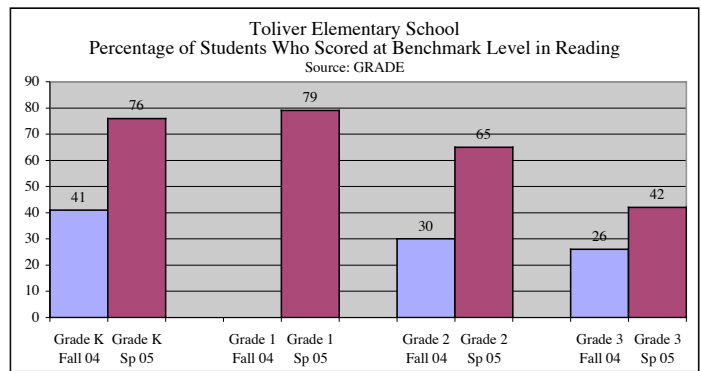
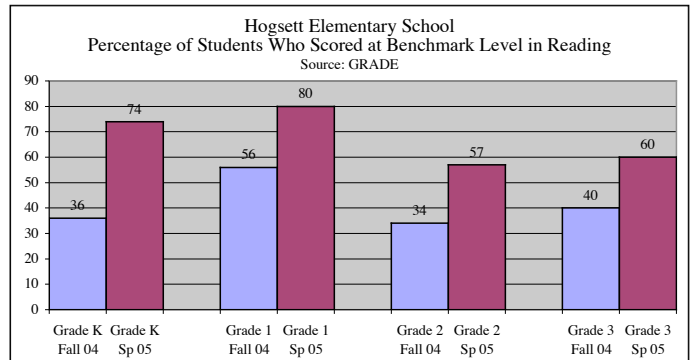
“One of the biggest successes related to the implementation of both reading programs is the ongoing support and coaching from SRA,” Embree said. “It’s not like we purchased materials and never heard from the company again.

We have an ongoing relationship with SRA that is absolutely invaluable.”

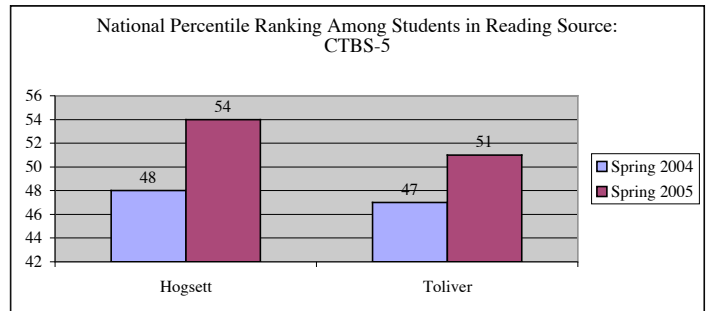
Embree said other aspects of the SRA programs also contributed to student success.

“The programs’ research-based materials and ongoing assessments certainly are key, as is the job-embedded professional development that involves coaching and mentoring our enthusiastic and competent teachers.”

JoAnn Hamm is the Reading First Reading Coach for Toliver Elementary School. She said the systematic approach to instruction found in *Open Court Reading* provides strong curricular integrity from grade to grade, thus leading to higher student achievement.



*Due to a scoring error in fall 2004, no scores are available for Grade 2 classes at Toliver Elementary School.





“The program also includes an important inquiry component,” she said. “This component enables high-level content integration through the universal units as well as through the science/social studies units in each grade. This clearly distinguishes *Open Court Reading* from other core curricula available to Kentucky school districts. Its focus is in on higher-order thinking, which means students are reading purposefully.”

Laura Perry, who is the Reading First Reading Coach for Hogsett Elementary School, said *Open Court Reading* and *Reading Mastery* complement each other perfectly to make a complete reading experience for students in need of additional support.

“*Reading Mastery* strengthens struggling readers’ skills,” she said. “This support allows them to be successful with *Open Court Reading*. Our students have much more confidence in their reading skills because the strategies learned in *Reading Mastery* are carried over into all areas of *Open Court Reading*. Our teachers are so excited to see the gains that their students are making because of these strong, research-based programs and because of the outstanding level of support from our consultant and sales representative.”

Doris Loran is a Literacy Partner at Hogsett Elementary School. During the 2004-2005 school year, she used *Reading Mastery* for 30 minutes every day with a 10-year-old girl from the Ivory Coast. The Grade 1 student had never been to school because her family constantly moved to seek refuge. At the beginning of the school year, she did not recognize letters or know any letter sounds. Within nine months, she advanced one grade and read 60 words per minute with very few errors.

“She showed me a story one day that she had written,” Loran explained. “She wrote that when she grew up she wanted to be a teacher to help others learn to read. Her progress is all I need to keep reminding myself of the importance of reading and how quality programs like *Reading Mastery* can meet the diverse needs of our students.”

About Danville Independent School District

Serving 1,836 students in Grades Pre-K–12, this district’s student population is 64% Caucasian, 21% African American, 5% Hispanic, 1% Asian, 1% Native American, and 8% multicultural. Fifty-six percent of the students qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, and slightly more than 2% are English Language Learners. For more information about Danville Independent School District, visit www.danville.k12.ky.us/district/index.wdt.

For More Information

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