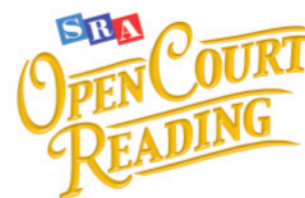


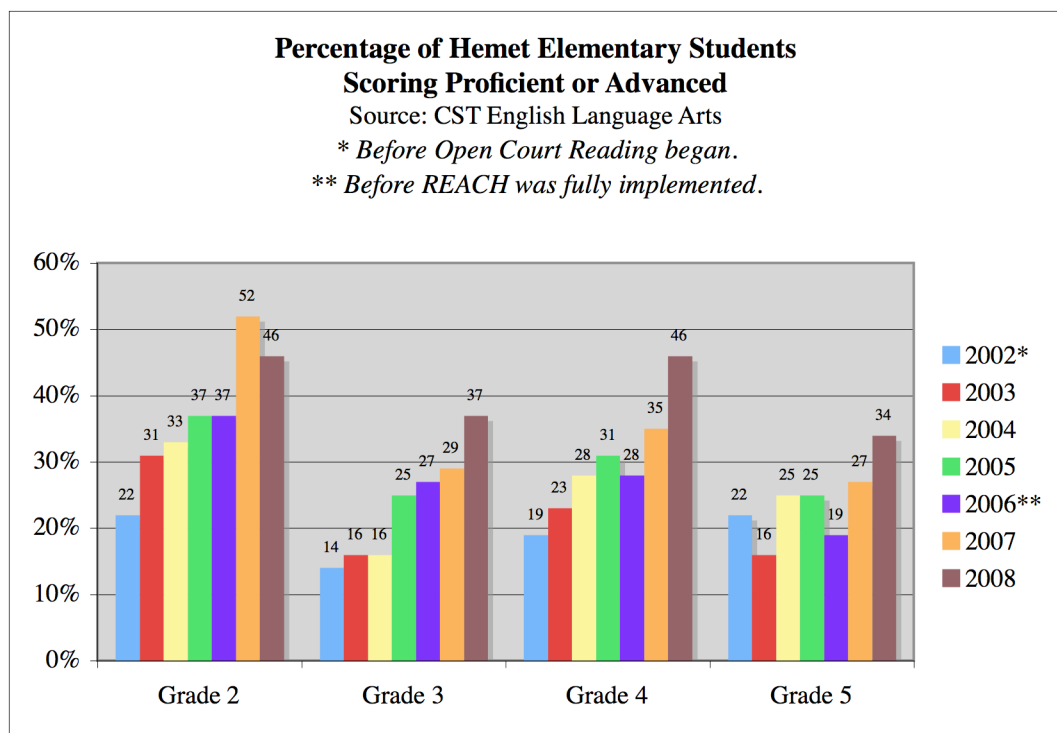


About the School:		About the Students:	
Grades:	K-5	African American:	6%
Number of Students:	785	Caucasian:	26%
Test(s):	CST	Hispanic:	62%
Reduced Price Lunch:	90%	Asian:	-
		Other:	6%
		ELL:	27%



State Reading Scores Improve at California Elementary, Open Court Reading and REACH Lead the Way

The majority of Hemet Elementary School students nearly doubled their English Language Arts scores on the California Standards Test (CST) in 2007 compared to 2002, due in part to the implementation of two programs from SRA/McGraw-Hill: *Open Court Reading* and *The REACH System* (a Direct Instruction curriculum that combines *Corrective Reading*, *Spelling through Morphographs*, and *Reasoning and Writing*).



Ted Smith, former principal, said both programs' decoding, comprehension, and vocabulary components, coupled with excellent teachers, have helped students succeed.

"*Open Court Reading* focuses first on decoding and then comprehension," Smith explained. "It's very beneficial to our students when teachers model comprehension strategies and teach academic language. *The REACH System* is strong in decoding, comprehension, and vocabulary as well. It's on a level that enables kids to be successful because it's very engaging and interactive."

Open Court Reading began as the core curriculum at Hemet Elementary School in Grades K-5 in fall 2002. (It's also used district-wide in K-5.) *The REACH System* was first used in fall 2006 with students in Grades 4 and 5 who scored far below basic or below basic on the CST, including English Language Learners and transient students.





“*The REACH System* has really lifted up these students,” Smith said. “We use it for 150 minutes each day. Thirty-five percent of our overall population is transient, and we often have to start at ground zero with them.”

Teaching with Fidelity

Reading Coach Pam Barret taught *Open Court Reading* for 10 years before coming to Hemet Elementary School to train teachers in the program.

“Our focus is to implement this program with fidelity,” Barret said. “We’re able to do that because our teachers are extremely dedicated and make sure no educational minutes are lost on any given day. Ongoing professional development also helps them refine their processes and learn from each other, like how to use the Concept Question Board. Kids posts questions on the board, which makes the unit interactive and gives them a purpose for reading.”

About Hemet Elementary School

Serving 785 students in Grades K–5, this school’s student population is 62% Hispanic, 26% Caucasian, 6% African American, and 6% multicultural. Eighty-two percent of the students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, 35% are transient, and 27% are learning English. For more information, please visit Hemetusd.k12.ca.us/sites/hemetel.

For More Information

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