



About the District:		About the Students:	
Grades:	PreK-12	African American:	50%
Number of Students:	65,000	Caucasian:	45%
Test(s):	DIBELS	Hispanic:	-
Reduced Price Lunch:	68%	Asian:	2%
		Other:	3%
		ELL	-



Alabama's Largest School District Ranks in Top 10 Statewide After Using Open Court Reading

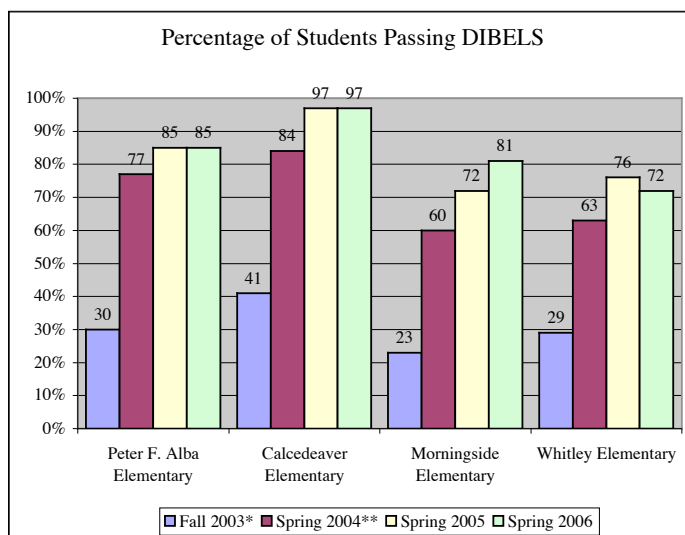
Alabama students from 10 Title I elementary schools in the Mobile County Public School System (MCPSS) have achieved some of the top reading scores in the state after implementing SRA/McGraw-Hill's *Open Court Reading*. Four of those schools also ranked in the top 10 statewide among all those involved in Reading First.

Dr. Carolyn Lee Taylor, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, said *Open Court Reading* is the reason for reading success in these 10 schools.

"We implemented the right program at the right time in the right way," Taylor explained. "Ongoing staff development is key as well. It's what fuels the momentum."

The four schools that ranked in the top 10 statewide serve vastly different communities of children and have achieved great success with *Open Court Reading*. By 2005, students at each school achieved their highest scores yet on the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) test.

Based on the positive results in these elementary schools, five additional Mobile County schools implemented the the program in Grades K-5 at the start of the 2004-2005 school year. The district also began using *Open Court Reading Pre-K* in 23 Pre-K classrooms and at its Development Center.



*Before *Open Court Reading*
 **After *Open Court Reading*

Open Court Preparation and Training

SRA is a strong presence in Alabama's implementation of Reading First and has partnered with the state to provide program-specific training to the district's *Open Court Reading* teachers and coaches.



“SRA has gone beyond the call of duty in Mobile with its support in the schools and the district,” said Sheila Mosley, coordinator of elementary curriculum and instruction. “The training we received this summer was excellent. One teacher said to me that *Open Court Reading* was the best thing that had happened to her in her teaching career, and she couldn’t wait to get started teaching this year!”

About the Mobile County School District

Serving nearly 65,000 students in 100 schools (60 are elementary schools), the student population of the Mobile County Public School System is 50% African American, 45% Caucasian, 2% Asian, and 3% multicultural. Approximately 68% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. For more information about the Mobile County School District or its elementary schools, visit www.mcps.com.

About Peter F. Alba Elementary School

Only 30% of students at Peter F. Alba Elementary School passed DIBELS in the fall of 2003, while 77% passed in the spring of 2004. By 2005, 85% passed. Located in a coastal fishing town, the school is home to a large number of Asians who immigrated there after the Vietnam War. Its teachers serve more than 500 students in Grades K-5 who are: 57% Caucasian, 33% Asian, 9% African American, and 1% Hispanic. Eighty-seven percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.

About Calcedeaver Elementary School

Calcedeaver Elementary School is a small, rural school in the north end of the county that serves a very large population of Native Americans in Grades K-6. Of the more than 225 students, the population is 93% Native American and 7% Caucasian. Also, 87% of the students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Only 41% of the children passed DIBELS in the fall of 2003, but 84% passed in the spring. By 2005, 97% passed.

About Morningside Elementary School

Morningside Elementary School is an urban school that serves more than 460 students in Grades K-5 who are: 85% African American, 11% Caucasian, 3% Hispanic, and 1% Asian. Ninety-three percent of the students qualify for free or reduced-priced lunch. In the fall of 2003, 23% of its students passed DIBELS. By spring 2004, 60% passed, and by 2005, 72% passed.

About Whitley Elementary School

Whitley Elementary School is another urban school that serves nearly 400 students in Grades Pre-K-5. All the students are African American, and 99% qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. In the fall of 2003, only 29% of the children passed DIBELS, but 63% passed the next spring. By 2005, 76% passed.

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**.