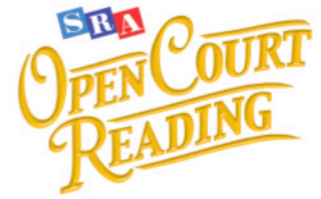


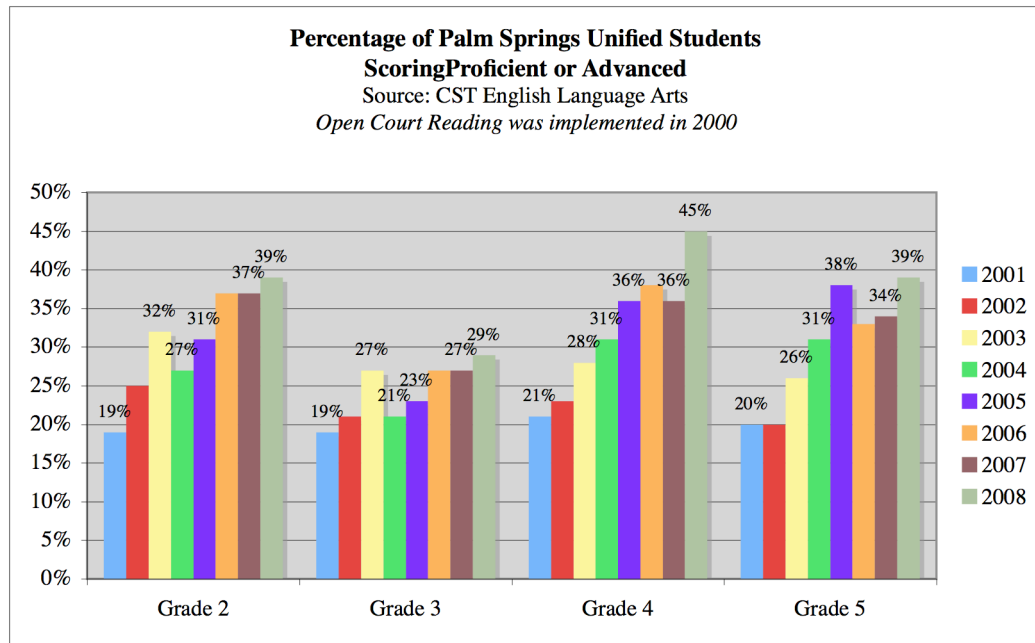


About the District:		About the Students:	
Grades:	PreK-12	African American:	5%
Number of Students:	24,000	Caucasian:	19%
Test(s):	CST	Hispanic:	71%
Reduced Price Lunch:	68%	Filipino:	2%
		Asian:	1%
		Other:	2%
		ELL:	32%



Reading Scores Remain High at California District With Open Court Reading

In 2001, just one year after *Open Court Reading* was implemented in Grades K–5 classrooms throughout the Palm Springs Unified School District, 36% of students in Grades 2–5 scored at or above the national average on the reading portion of the Stanford 9 (SAT/9) in 2001, compared to 34% in 2000. In 2001, the state administered a new test called the California Standards Test (CST), and students in Grades 2–5 continued to score high on the English Language Arts section. By 2008, Grades 2–5 students scored a record high.



Palm Springs Unified School District first adopted *Open Court Reading* in Grades K–5 at the start of the 2000-2001 school year. Currently, all Palm Springs Unified School District’s 15 elementary schools use *Open Court Reading* as well *Open Court Reading Pre-K*.

Frank Tinney, the district’s director of standards, assessment, and accountability, said *Open Court Reading* professional development has provided the district’s elementary school teachers with skills and knowledge of phonemics and phonetics that they never received during their collegiate teacher training.



“As teachers learn more about direct and reciprocal teaching, they begin to understand how these strategies are embedded in *Open Court Reading*,” he said.

Tinney said the program has made a big difference in the primary grades.

“Teachers in Grades 2 and 3 tell me they’ve never had incoming students with skills like our kids have now,” said Tinney. “When students enter classrooms in August, they have retained their ability to blend and decode words. This did not happen with the reading program we used before *Open Court Reading*. Now students pick up right where they left off with skills like manipulating, segmenting, and blending sounds.”

About Palm Springs Unified School District

Located in the Coachella Valley, about 100 miles east of Los Angeles and 120 miles northeast of San Diego, the Palm Springs Unified School District serves approximately 24,000 students. The district’s student population is 71% Hispanic, 19% Caucasian, 5% African American, 2% Filipino, 2% multicultural, and 1% Asian. About 68% of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches, and 32% are English Language Learners. For more information about Palm Springs Unified School District, visit PSUSD.k12.ca.us.

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**.
