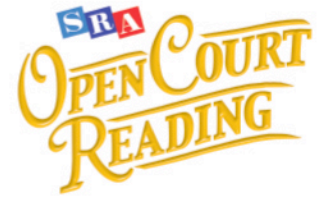




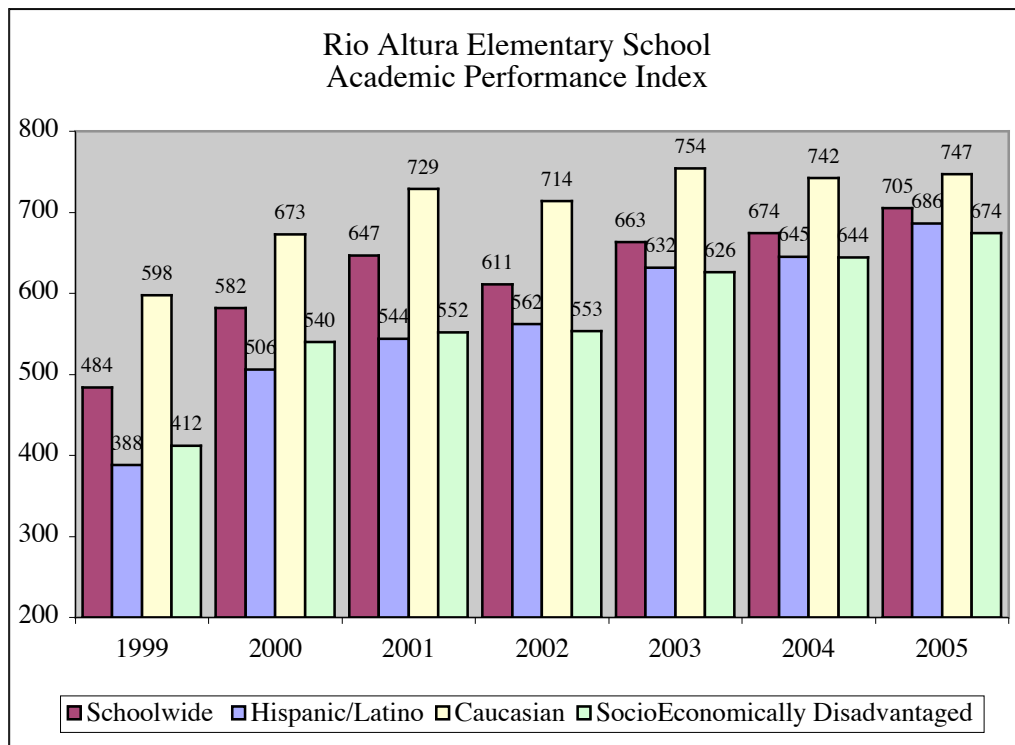
About the School:		About the Students:	
Grades:	K-5	African American:	1%
Number of Students:	816	Caucasian:	25%
Test(s):	API	Hispanic:	71%
Reduced Price Lunch:	60%	Asian:	-
		Other:	3%
		ELL:	51%



California Elementary School Closes Achievement Gap with SRA Reading Programs

Teachers at Rio Altura Elementary School are closing the achievement gap among socioeconomically disadvantaged students as well as among Hispanic and Latino students by using SRA/McGraw-Hill’s *Open Court Reading* in conjunction with Direct Instruction reading programs.

Before adopting the programs, the school’s Academic Performance Index (API) was a low 484 in 1999. By 2005, Rio Altura Elementary School’s API rose dramatically to 705. More notably, the API score among socioeconomically disadvantaged students was 412 in 1999. It increased each year and reached an all-time high of 674 in 2005.



“We found exactly what we were looking for – a research-based curriculum to meet the needs of our students,” Vice Principal Kim Newton said. “After receiving our 2000 API results, one year after implementing SRA, we introduced a new motto for the school: ‘Working Hard, Working Smart.’ ”



Open Court Reading is the core reading program used in Grades K-5 and is taught for at least two hours each day. All students also are grouped by ability and taught a Direct Instruction program for an additional 45 minutes each day. Other Direct Instruction programs used include: *Language for Learning* and *Language for Thinking* in Kindergarten; *Spelling Mastery* in Grades 1-5; *Horizons* in Grades 2-4; *Expressive Writing* in Grades 3-4, and *Corrective Reading* in Grades 3-5 (for struggling readers).

“We are a Title I school and nearly half of our students have limited English proficiency,” explained Newton. “Our students spend two hours each day with *Open Court Reading*, and that’s one of the reasons why our API score continues to rise each year.”

About Rio Altura Elementary School

Located east of Modesto, Rio Altura Elementary School serves approximately 816 students year-round in Grades K-5. The student population is 71% Hispanic, 25% Caucasian, 1% African American, and 1% multicultural. Sixty percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, and 51% are English Language Learners. For more information about Rio Altura Elementary School, visit rusdwin2k.riverbank.k12.ca.us/rio.

For More Information

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