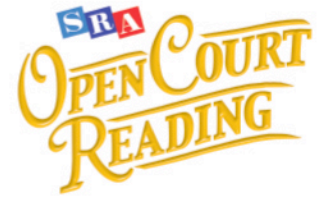




About the District:		About the Students:	
Grades:	PreK-12	African American:	1%
Number of Students:	61,693	Caucasian:	3%
Test(s):	CST	Hispanic:	92%
Reduced Price Lunch:	85%	Asian:	3%
		Other:	1%
		ELL	72%



Open Court Reading Helps California District Improve API Score, Reach Out to Parents

Since SRA/McGraw-Hill's *Open Court Reading* helped the Santa Ana Unified School District improve its Academic Performance Index (API) score, educators took the program one step further. At the start of the 2005-2006 school year, they began offering training to parents so they can use the program's strategies in their homes.

Now parents district-wide have the option of participating in *Open Court Reading* training at particular elementary schools. Marjorie Cochran, director of Reading First for the district, said this training empowers them.

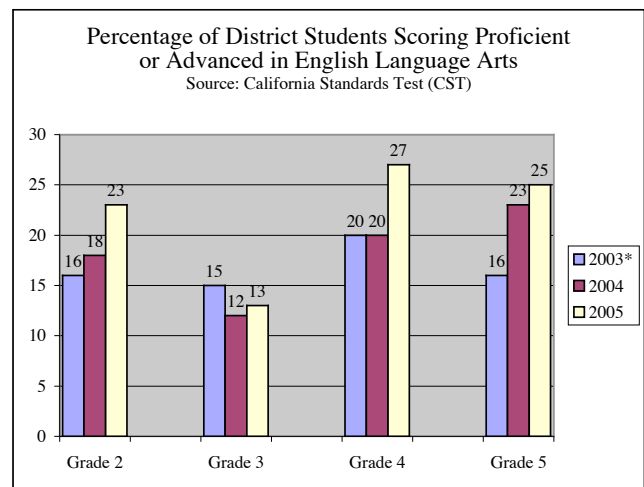
"Parents learn about phonemic awareness principles and comprehension strategies," she said. "When they use these methods in their daily routines at home, they help their children make the connections more easily in the classroom."

Why Open Court Reading?

Cochran said that teachers implemented the program at the start of the 2003-2004 school year in Grades K-3. The following year the adoption spread to Grades 4 and 5.

"We're a Reading First district, and we wanted to give our students a rigorous curriculum so they could achieve academic excellence," she said. "We have found that when teachers understand this program's purpose, research, and methodology, their students' reading ability improves."

With the exception of Grade 3, the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on the language arts portion of the California Standards Test (CST) has increased since *Open Court Reading* began. However, Grade 3 students have improved their CST scores as Grade 4 and 5 students. For example, in 2003, 15% of Grade 3 students scored proficient or advanced, but 20% scored at that level as Grade 4 students in 2004. In 2004, 12% of Grade 3 students scored proficient or advanced, but 27% scored at that level as Grade 4 students in 2005.



* Before *Open Court Reading* began.



In addition to improving test scores, the district's API has increased. The API is a numeric index, ranging from a low of 200 to a high of 1,000 that measures academic growth. The state has set 800 as the goal for schools and districts. Before *Open Court Reading* began, the district's API was 614. It increased to 628 in 2004 and to 656 in 2005.

"This program has definitely played a role in the district's rising API scores," Cochran said. "Yes, we've seen gains in reading, but we've also seen gains in other subjects, like math. When scores in other subjects rise because students can read and comprehend the material, API score rises too."

About Santa Ana Unified School District

Serving approximately 61,693 students in Grades PreK-12, this district's student population is 92% Hispanic, 3% Asian, 3% Caucasian, 1% African American, and 1% Filipino or Pacific Islander. Eighty-five percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, and 72% are English Language Learners. For more information about the district, visit www.sausd.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**.
