



About the School:		About the Students:	
Grades:	PreK-8	African American:	94%
Number of Students:	435	Caucasian:	1%
Test(s):	WASL	Hispanic:	3%
Reduced Price Lunch:	89%	Asian:	1%
		Native American:	1%
		ELL	-



Seattle School Boosts Reading Scores with Reading Mastery Curriculum

African American Academy in Seattle, WA, is closing the achievement gap between Caucasians and minorities by using SRA/McGraw-Hill's Direct Instruction program *Reading Mastery*.

In 2003, the academy's Grade 4 students enjoyed the largest gains among Seattle elementary schools with similarly low-income student populations. More specifically, Grade 4 reading scores jumped from 42% to 68% on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) in just three years. By 2006, 85% of Grade 4 students met or exceeded state reading standards.

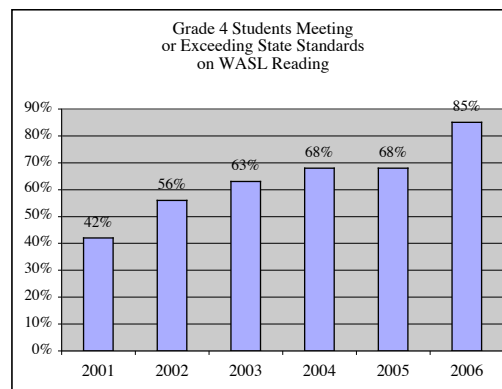
"Direct Instruction's *Reading Mastery* has definitely had a positive impact on our kids," said former academy Principal Medgar Wells. "It's given them power and confidence in reading. Our increased achievement in reading is proof that *Reading Mastery* works."

What Teachers Are Saying

DaZanne Porter, now a reading coach at Brighton Elementary School, taught Kindergarten at African American Academy when it first opened.

"Even when the academy was still in the planning stages, we all knew *Reading Mastery* would be at the curriculum's center," Porter said. "It works well with all students, and children enjoy the program because it involves a lot of interaction with teachers and peers."

At one point, Porter worked with a Grade 1 student at the academy who told her he didn't need to learn to read because he was going to join a gang. "You're going to be in my gang, and my gang reads," the teacher replied. Porter said every day after that incident, the little boy knocked on her door and said, "Are we going to read today?"



The WASL tests are standards-based and are used to assess students in Grades 4, 7, and 10.



Reading Coach Patricia Evans said *Reading Mastery* is a great tool for teachers.

“Its modeling component is especially helpful because it allows teachers to see exactly who understands a concept and who needs additional work,” Evans said. “The academy teachers deserve a lot of credit for the commitment they have shown to both *Reading Mastery* and to ensuring our students attain and surpass their academic potential.”

Evans said once teachers embrace the program and see results, they become believers. She shared the story of a Grade 1 teacher who watched a particular student struggle with reading until she was exposed to *Reading Mastery*.

Soon after using Direct Instruction, the child was reading everything she could find. When her mother heard her reading out loud one night, she called the child’s aunt and grandmother to share the exciting news. Then, the grandmother called the child’s teacher to say how delighted she was of her granddaughter’s progress.

“We’re all in agreement that teaching reading systematically using phonics is what helps our students succeed and makes them more confident in their reading ability,” Evans said. “*Reading Mastery* makes all the difference in the world.”

About the Implementation

Reading Mastery has been fully implemented in African American Academy’s Grades K–3 since the 2001–2002 school year.

About the Academy

The African American Academy is a Title I school that opened in 1991 to help reduce the racial gap in academic achievement. Schools are eligible for the U.S. Title I program when the majority of the students they serve come from low-income households. Title I schools receive federal funds to expand and improve their educational offerings.

The student population includes nearly 435 children in Grades Pre-K–8 who are 94% African American, 3% Hispanic, 1% Caucasian, 1% Asian, and 1% Native American. Eighty-nine percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. For more about the African American Academy, visit www.seattleschools.org/schools/aaa.

For More Information

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