



About the School:		About the Students:	
Grades:	PreK-7	African American:	92%
Number of Students:	160	Caucasian:	2%
Test(s):	DSTP	Hispanic:	6%
Reduced Price Lunch:	85%	Asian:	-
		Other:	-
		ELL:	-

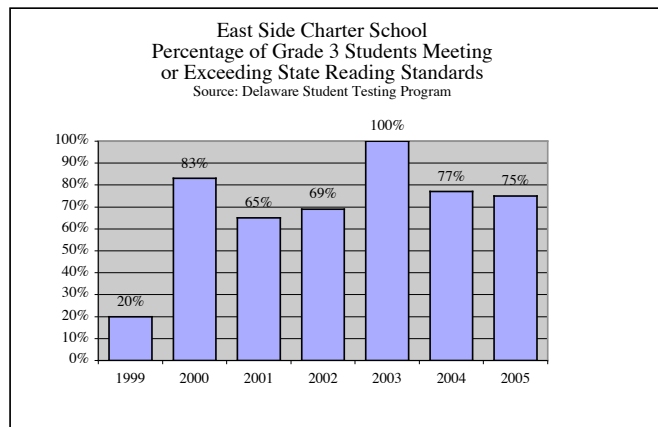


Delaware Charter School Students Maintains High Reading Scores

After opening its doors in 1997 to some of the state’s most economically and educationally disadvantaged children, East Side Charter School has amassed a prestigious academic record. The school was recognized with a State Congressional Statement honoring student achievement in 2002. It also received the Title I Distinguished Schools Award in 2001, given to Title I schools that best demonstrate how educational programs can result in significant achievement of the school’s most academically disadvantaged students. In 2004 it received a Pride of SRA Academic Recognition Award for showing dramatic academic success.

After adopting the Direct Instruction programs *Reading Mastery*, *Reasoning and Writing*, and *Spelling Mastery* school-wide in 1998, Grade 3 test scores on the reading portion of the Delaware Student Testing Program dramatically improved – from 20% of students meeting/exceeding state reading standards in 1999 to 83% in 2000.

By 2003, 100% of Grade 3 students (88% of whom came from low-income families) outscored every school in the state on standardized performance tests in both reading and math! In 2004 and 2005, the percentages dipped slightly, but Principal Will Robinson said those scores were more consistent with previous year’s scores.



“We look forward to yet another year when our students outscore every school in the state,” Robinson said. “In the meantime, we’re still very happy that our students continue to improve their reading skills each year.”

Disadvantaged Children Find Success

Robinson said more than 75% of East Side Charter School students live in poverty with only one parent, few of whom completed any college education. Many children live in neighborhoods with high incidences of violence and crime, and some are without proper nutrition and health care.

Robinson stated, “Statistically our kids are considered at-risk, but we don’t use the at-risk designation. Instead, we look at our kids and see the promise in their eyes.”



Facing these social and academic circumstances, Robinson chose to implement Direct Instruction after he was hired as principal and executive director in 1998, one year after the school opened. “I used Direct Instruction programs successfully when I taught special education students in Baltimore and Wilmington,” he explained. “So I didn’t see why we couldn’t use them with general education students.”

Robinson was right. Five years after implementation, each child in Grade 3 met or exceeded state reading standards, achieving the highest score in the state. Now he shares success story after success story involving children who arrive at East Side Charter School reading one to two grade levels below average. After using Direct Instruction’s *Reading Mastery* for six months, most of them are well on their way to reading on grade level. “SRA’s programs help students understand what reading is all about. They go from being non-readers to avid readers – often reading well above grade level in a short period of time,” Robinson said.

Parental Involvement Equals Success

Parental involvement is a key factor to the charter school’s success. The school requires parents to sign a mutual responsibility contract and contribute at least four hours of volunteer service each month. In addition, parents agree to attend PTA meetings, check homework each night, and read with their children at least 15 minutes a day. Students wear uniforms, attend school 11 months each year, and can participate in tutoring programs offered before and after school.

“Here we believe that every student, no matter where they come from, can read,” Robinson said. “Not only can they read, but they can read well.”

About East Side Charter School

Established in 1997, East Side Charter School is a Title I school that provides education for children who are economically at-risk. Its goals are noteworthy: decrease the education gap between minority children and those from more prosperous surroundings; increase the number of students who are prepared for high school; decrease the number of students who are labeled special education students; increase the number of minority students who accept the challenge of math and science disciplines; and create an atmosphere where no child will be left behind.

Serving more than 160 pupils in Grades PreK-6, the student population is 92% African American, 6% Hispanic and 2% Caucasian. About 30% of the children reside in public housing with single female heads of household, and 85% are eligible for free or reduced-prices lunch, compared to a state average of 40%.

For More Information

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