



About the School:		About the Students:	
Grades:	K-6	African American:	10%
Number of Students:	352	Caucasian:	42%
Test(s):	API	Hispanic:	32%
Reduced Price Lunch:	57%	Asian:	10%
		Other:	4%
		ELL	19%



Modesto Elementary School Advances From Underperforming to Distinguished With Direct Instruction

In just four years, Eisenhut Elementary School went from being ranked Underperforming by the state of California to Distinguished – with the help of SRA/McGraw-Hill’s Direct Instruction reading programs.

Direct Instruction offers a research-based curriculum that was carefully developed, tested, and refined to ensure all students learn to read effectively. “Once Direct Instruction became part of every child’s education experience, test scores began to rise,” Principal Mary Stires said.

Stires also credits Direct Instruction for improved Academic Performance Index (API) scores. A school’s API score demonstrates students’ academic growth and achievement. The maximum score is 1000, and the statewide target is 800.

About the Implementation

In 2000, Eisenhut Elementary School educators began their search for a research-validated program. Their goals were to provide early intervention to prevent students in Grades K-2 from falling behind, while also helping their struggling students in Grades 3-6 to catch up.

At the start of the 2000-2001 school year, teachers implemented Direct Instruction’s *Reading Mastery* in Grades K-2 and *Corrective Reading* with students who scored below the 50th percentile on the Stanford 9 in Grades 3-6. During this time, the school was classified as Underperforming because its API score was below state standards. So in 2001, all students received 45 minutes of uninterrupted Direct Instruction programs every day in addition to the school’s adopted core curriculum, SRA’s *Open Court Reading*.

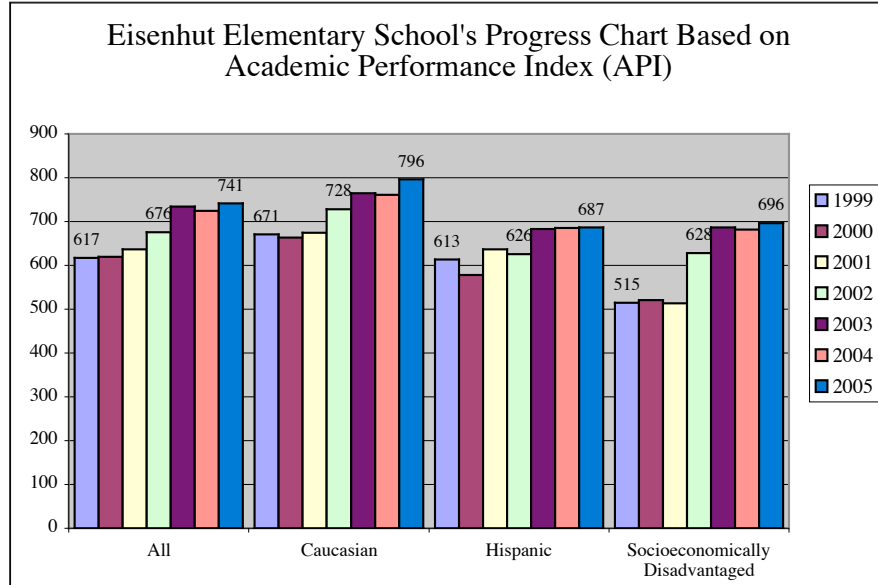
The Direct Instruction reading programs taught in Grades K-6 included *Reading Mastery*, *Horizons*, *Language for Learning*, *Reasoning and Writing*, and for older, struggling readers *Corrective Reading*.

“The strategies that teachers have learned in teaching Direct Instruction are carried over into all aspects of the curriculum,” Stires explained. “There is a focus on active engagement of all students, as well as mastery learning.”

Students did so well on standardized tests that Eisenhut Elementary School received Distinguished status from the state in 2004 as well as the Wesley Becker Excellence in Education Award from the Association for Direct Instruction that same year.



To encourage schools to improve achievement for all students, California computes API and sets improvement targets for different student subgroups at the school. The chart below shows Eisenhut Elementary School's recent API scores.



About Eisenhut Elementary School

Located in the Stanislaus Union School District, Eisenhut Elementary School serves roughly 352 students in Grades K-6. This Title I school has a diverse student population: 42% Caucasian, 32% Hispanic, 10% African American, 10% Asian, and 4% Pacific Islander. There are 11 different first languages spoken by the students, and 19% of them are learning English as a second language. More than half of the student population (57%) qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, which is similar to the state average of 56%. For more information about Eisenhut Elementary School, visit www.stanunion.k12.ca.us/sarcs/eisenhut.htm.

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**.