

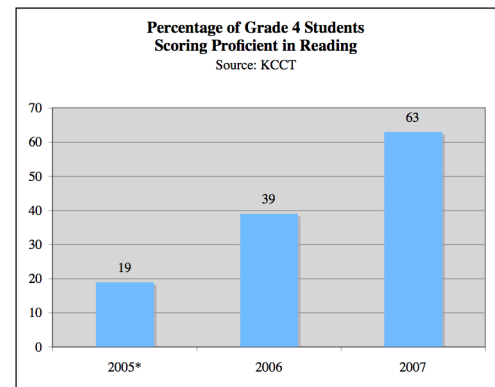
About the School:		About the Students:	
Grades:	PreK-5	African American:	61%
Number of Students:	250	Caucasian:	38%
Test(s):	KCCT	Hispanic:	1%
Reduced Price Lunch:	92%	Asian:	-
		Other:	-
		ELL	-



Low-Performing Kentucky School on Its Way To High-Performing With *Reading Mastery*

Highland Elementary School has been home to Sarah Newman for nearly 40 years – as a student, teacher, curriculum specialist, and now principal. When she became principal in 2004, she and her colleagues decided their school would no longer be labeled low-performing. Instead, they implemented SRA/McGraw-Hill’s *Reading Mastery* in Grades K–5 in October 2005 and watched students’ reading scores steadily improve on the Kentucky Core Content Test (KCCT).

“We had gone through years of being a low-performing school,” Newman explained. “Yet the staff truly believed the problem didn’t lie with the children. Instead, we needed to find the right kind of curriculum to help us help our students learn to read. We found exactly what we needed in *Reading Mastery*, and now we are on our way to becoming a high-performing school, despite the high level of poverty.”



*Before *Reading Mastery* began.

Now teachers at all grades, including Pre-K in fall 2007, provide instruction from the *Reading Mastery* for 90 minutes each day. “What was inconsistent before has now become universal,”

Newman said. “We also implemented a school-wide system for managing behavior and created a culture of high expectations in a positive learning environment built upon celebrations. Once children knew the expectations, they rose to the challenge.”

Newman said *Reading Mastery* works particularly well with low-income children because they thrive on structure and discipline. “We love the exactness of the program,” she said. “It’s so very precise that there’s nothing left for teachers to guess about. Our teachers know how to follow through on students’ specific needs, and once students see their success, their entire outlook changes.”

Other teachers see this change in attitude too. Newman said students’ positive and happy outlooks have carried over into other subjects, like math and art.

“Teachers notice children participating who never had before,” she said. “They are finally raising their hands and participating. *Reading Mastery* gives them the self-esteem and confidence they need to be successful.”



About Highland Elementary School

Serving approximately 250 students in Grades Pre-K–5, this school’s student population was 61% African American, 38% Caucasian, and 1% Hispanic. Ninety-two percent of children qualified for free or reduced-price lunch. At the start of the 2007–2008 school year, Highland and Morningside Elementary School merged to form Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School. For more information, visit <http://class.christian.k12.ky.us/schools/hi>.

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**.