



About the School:		About the Students:	
Grades:	K-6	African American:	13%
Number of Students:	411	Caucasian:	12%
Test(s):	ABE/SBA	Hispanic:	15%
Reduced Price Lunch:	88%	Asian:	32%
		Native Alaskan:	28%
		ELL	-

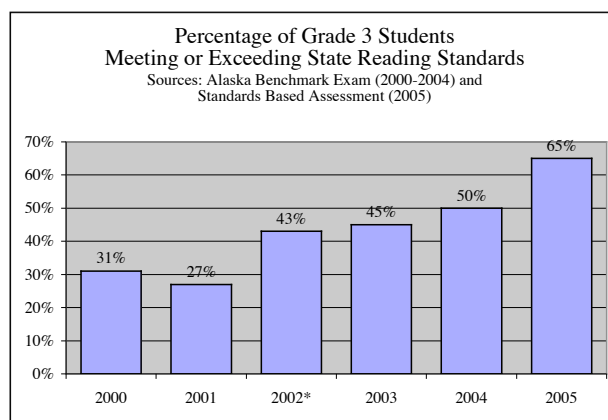


Anchorage School's Diverse Population Flourishes with Direct Instruction

In a learning environment where 20 languages are spoken and 88% of the students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, students at Mountain View Elementary School are defying the language and poverty barriers to achieve increased reading proficiency with SRA/McGraw-Hill's Direct Instruction.

After experiencing Direct Instruction's *Reading Mastery* for one year, 43% of Grade 3 students met or exceeded state reading standards in 2002, up from 27% the year before. By 2005, that percentage increased to 65%.

"That spike is definitely because of *Reading Mastery*," explained reading coach Patricia Jackson.



*2002 reflects progress after one year of Direct Instruction.

Diversity is Celebrated

Forty percent of the students at Mountain View Elementary School are bilingual, and more than half of those students' parents are non-English speakers. Many families are either from the Dominican Republic and speak Spanish or are from northern Thailand and speak Hmong. Therefore, translators attend school functions to reduce the communication barrier between teachers and parents. The Mountain View staff also conducts Parent University on Friday nights to teach various skills, including literacy and math so parents can help their children with homework as well as improve their own skills.

Direct Instruction + Mountain View Students = Reading Proficiency

To increase reading proficiency school-wide, teachers implemented several Direct Instruction programs at the start of the 2001-2002 school year. *Language for Learning* began in Kindergarten and *Reading Mastery* continued in Grades 1-6. *Corrective Reading* was used with struggling readers in Grades 4-6 who tested two or more years below grade level.

"When we first started, we placed 49% of our students from Grades 4-6 in *Corrective Reading*," Jackson said. "It worked so well for our children that by the 2003-2004 school year, only 20% of our intermediate students needed *Corrective Reading* intervention."



Jackson also said it's not unusual to watch students make tremendous strides after they begin *Corrective Reading*. One student jumped ahead four grades in reading in just two years! "Now students have a serious attitude toward reading and are motivated to improve their skills," she said.

Students who work with the school's English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher also progress at a steady pace with *Reading Mastery Rainbow Edition*. "Our ESL teacher said she had never seen such incredible growth in reading and language acquisition as when we implemented *Reading Mastery Rainbow*," Jackson added.

Mountain View Elementary School students continue to experience Direct Instruction programs every day: *Language for Learning* and *Reading Mastery* in Kindergarten, *Reading Mastery* in Grades 1-3, *Reading Mastery Plus* in Grades 3-6, and *Corrective Reading* when necessary in Grades 4-6.

Staff Development Is Key

Jackson said one of the reasons students have had such great success with the Direct Instruction programs is because the top-notch teaching staff puts a great deal of time and energy into their teaching. In addition, the staff, who received a significant amount of training and coaching at the beginning of the implementation, continues to get support and professional development opportunities.

"Staff development is absolutely key to a successful implementation," she said. "We continue to offer training during in-service days and also train in-house coaches to keep the program running smoothly."

About Mountain View Elementary School

Serving approximately 411 children in Grades K-6, this school has a diverse student population: 32% Asian, 28% Native Alaskan, 15% Hispanic, 13% African American, and 12% Caucasian. Eighty-eight percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. For more information about Mountain View Elementary School, visit www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/mtn.view/mv.home.html.

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**.
