

About the Center:		About the Students:	
Grades:	K-5	African American:	2%
Number of Students:	1,250	Caucasian:	89%
Test(s):	Terra Nova	Hispanic:	8%
Reduced Price Lunch:	22%	Asian:	1%
		Other:	-
		ELL:	-

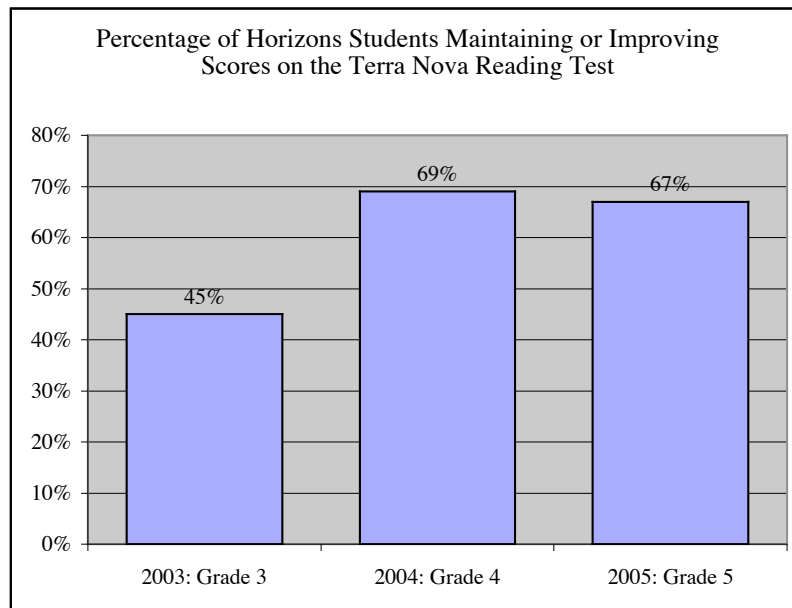


Pennsylvania School District Uses Horizons to Give At-Risk Readers Foundation for Success

What began as an innovative project became a permanent strategy at Muhlenberg Elementary Center. Since the 1999-2000 school year, the district has used SRA/McGraw-Hill's *Horizons* to transition at-risk Grades 1-2 students back to the regular education classroom and prevent reading failure.

Under a four-year Read to Succeed Grant from the state of Pennsylvania, which provided the funds to implement *Horizons*, Muhlenberg Elementary Center assigned students who struggled to read at the end of Kindergarten to separate classrooms in Grades 1 and 2 for intensive reading instruction. The goal was for Grade 2 students to transition into a Grade 3 classroom where all students participated in a basal reading program, according to Assistant Superintendent Nancy King.

Instruction with *Horizons* made it possible for more of these at-risk students to succeed by giving them a strong, firm foundation that carries them forward. The percentage of these students who maintained or increased scores on the Terra Nova reading test each year from 2002, the year they transitioned out of *Horizons* and into Grade 3, until 2005 jumped from 45% to 67%.



King said *Horizons* has proven to be very successful because its instructional approach accelerates students' progress. "When Grade 2 students move into Grade 3 classrooms, they participate more effectively and are able to complete the work successfully," she said.



“The program is so strong in phonics that students quickly achieve wonderful success. They are highly involved in instruction and feel so good about themselves that they don’t have time to act out in undesirable ways. That means the number of discipline referrals has nearly vanished,” said King.

Even though the state grant ended in 2003, teachers continue to use *Horizons* with at-risk readers in Grades 1 and 2.

About Horizons

Horizons is a Direct Instruction reading program for Grades K-4 that can serve as a core reading program or as a highly effective intervention program. A detailed sequence of daily lessons provides explicit, systematic instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics/decoding, vocabulary, and comprehension. In addition, spelling is fully coordinated with reading to provide substantial practice with letter sound relationships.

About the Muhlenberg Elementary Center

The Muhlenberg Elementary Center serves all elementary students within the district. With more than 1,250 children in Grades K-5, this elementary center’s student population is 89% Caucasian, 8% Hispanic, 2% African American, and 1% Asian. Twenty-two percent of the students qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

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**.