

About the School:		About the Students:	
Grades:	PreK-3	African American:	4%
Number of Students:	813	Caucasian:	3%
Test(s):	SAT/9	Hispanic:	90%
Reduced Price Lunch:	95%	Asian:	1%
		Native American:	2%
		ELL	52%

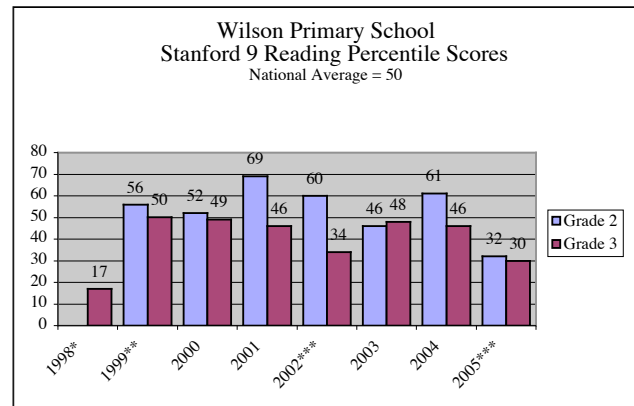


Phoenix Inner-City Students Strive Toward National Reading Average

After implementing *Reading Mastery* in Grades 1-3 at the start of the 1998-1999 school year, educators at Wilson Primary School noted that students' reading scores began rising steadily toward the national average. These are significant achievements for a school that serves the poorest population in the city and has a high mobility rate of 68%. Many parents and children speak almost no English.

"Direct Instruction is the main contributing factor for our success in reading," Principal Leanne Morse said. "The reading programs are great instructional tools, no doubt about it." Direct Instruction's *Language for Learning* is taught to Kindergarteners and English Language Learners (ELL) in Grades 1-3. Other students use *Reading Mastery*.

Morse said the Grade 3 scores dipped to the 34th percentile in 2002 because in previous years the state reported only the scores of students who had received three years of English instruction. "The dip in 2002 was due to a greater number of English Language Learner students being included in the aggregation," Morse said. "Despite the lower score, our students are learning English, developing reading fluency, and producing better results than other schools with similar demographics."



* SAT/9 was not administered for Grade 2 in 1998.

**Students had experienced Direct Instruction for one year.

***Terra Nova replaced SAT/9.

In 2005, students began taking the Terra Nova; however, SAT/9 and Terra Nova scores cannot be compared.

The state ranked Wilson Primary School as Performing Plus in 2005, up from Underperforming in 2003. The school also achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the first time in 2004 and then again in 2005. "*Reading Mastery* and excellent teachers are reasons we achieved AYP," Morse explained.



About the Implementation

After implementing Direct Instruction in Grades K-3 at the start of the 1998-1999 school year, Wilson Primary School teachers noticed something else important: Spanish-speaking Kindergarteners began acquiring excellent English skills by November of each year. Morse said their skills also continue to improve into Grade 1.

“A first grader recently asked his teacher how to pronounce a word in the storybook he had taken home the night before for homework,” she said. “His teacher explained what the word meant and used it in a sentence. Then, she asked why he was so interested in the word. He told her that he teaches his parents to read each night from the storybook, and they too didn’t understand the word.”

Morse also said she receives two to three calls per week from educators interested in seeing how *Reading Mastery* is implemented at Wilson Primary School. By 2005, she had spoken to or hosted nearly 45 groups of teachers and administrators. “Reading is the foundation for everything at Wilson Primary. I love to share how *Reading Mastery* works for our children,” she said.

About Wilson Primary School

Serving 813 children in Grades Pre-K–3, Wilson Primary School’s student population is 90% Hispanic, 4% African American, 3% Caucasian, 2% Native American, and 1% Asian. About 95% of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, and 52% are English Language Learners (ELL). For more information about Wilson Primary School, visit www.wsd.k12.az.us/primary_school.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**.