



**About the District:**

Grades:	PreK-8
Number of Students:	90,000
Test(s):	Terra Nova, MSA
Reduced Price Lunch:	81%

**About the Students:**

African American:	88%
Caucasian:	10%
Hispanic:	1%
Asian:	-
Other:	1%
ELL	-



## SRA/McGraw-Hill's Reading Programs Bring Increases in Baltimore's Scores

Administrators for the Baltimore City Public Schools are celebrating students' progressive measurable results after implementing SRA/McGraw-Hill's *Open Court Reading* and Direct Instruction reading programs.

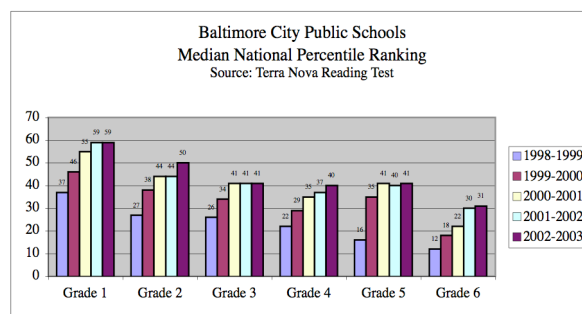
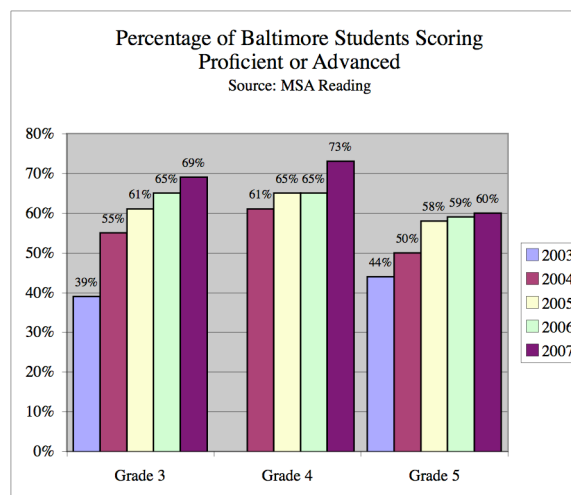
*Open Court Reading* was introduced district-wide in 1998 in Grades K–2. Now it is used in 102 of the district's 120 elementary schools (still in Grades K–2).

Eighteen elementary schools selected Direct Instruction reading, language, and writing programs in 1996 for their proven results and consistency. Currently, teachers in Grades Pre-K–8 are using the following programs: *Reading Mastery*, *Language for Learning*, *Language for Thinking*, and *Reasoning and Writing*. Both *Corrective Reading* and *Expressive Writing* are also used for intervention when necessary.

As these graphs reveal, students have steadily achieved increases in scores since the SRA programs were implemented.

The Terra Nova Reading Test was only administered through the 2002–2003 school year; however, students continue to score well in reading on the Maryland State Assessment (MSA).

"This year's impressive acceleration of progress is a demonstration of our continuing efforts to provide rigorous curriculum and high quality instruction," according to Chief Academic Officer Linda Chinnia. "We are seeing the fruit of our maturing programmatic reforms, our formative assessment efforts, and our increasing use of data to make instructional decisions."





### **Ask the Educators**

Baltimore Curriculum Project President Murial Berkeley said, “If educators use data to make decisions, they will choose *Open Court Reading* or Direct Instruction, especially for urban settings.”

Bernice Whelchel, principal of Baltimore’s City Springs Elementary School, pointed out that four out of the five elementary schools which often score high on the Maryland Schools Proficiency Assessment Program use Direct Instruction. “The program provides a tremendous amount of structure,” she said. “When you combine that with necessary focus, we find that children are learning every second of every day.”

City Springs continues to receive national recognition for its structure and focus. When President George W. Bush celebrated the one-year anniversary of the No Child Left Behind Act in January 2003, Whelchel and seven other school principals from across the nation were recognized for achieving excellence in education.

“The real reward goes to our dedicated teachers who work so hard with our students,” said Whelchel. “Direct Instruction has helped our children reach their reading potential, and we’ll continue with it well into the future.”

### **About Baltimore City Public Schools**

The district serves approximately 90,000 children: 88% African American, 10% Caucasian and 1% Hispanic. Eighty-one percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. For more information about the Baltimore City Public Schools, visit [www.bcps.k12.md.us](http://www.bcps.k12.md.us).

### **For More Information**

If you would like to learn more about success with Direct Instruction or *Open Court Reading* programs in your school or district, please contact us today at 1-888-SRA-4543.