



About the District:		About the Students:	
Grades:	PreK-12	African American:	-
Number of Students:	5900	Caucasian:	69%
Test(s):	ISAT	Hispanic:	29%
Reduced Price Lunch:	56%	Asian:	-
		Other:	2%
		ELL:	-



***Horizons and Language for Learning* Close Achievement Gap Among Limited English Proficient Students**

Once several SRA/McGraw-Hill reading programs were adopted district-wide in Vallivue elementary schools, test scores across subjects began to increase and the achievement gap began to close, especially among students classified as limited English proficient (LEP).

Kris Hopkins, federal programs, assessment, and instruction director, said the fall of 2005 was the first time teachers had used the same core reading program (*Open Court Reading*) in Grades K–4 at all school sites and the same Tier 3 intervention (*Horizons*) with struggling students in Grades 2–4, including beginning LEP students.

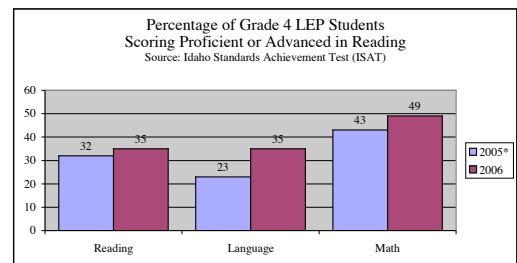
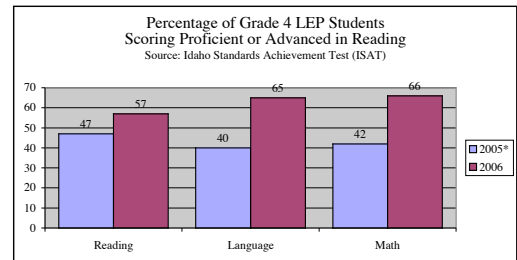
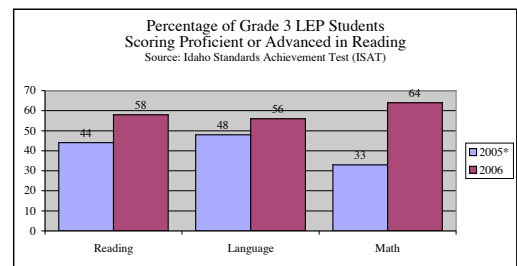
“*Horizons* allows us to close the achievement gap much more quickly,” she said. “This is the first time we’ve been able to accelerate struggling students more than one grade level during one school year, and if they move within the district from one school to another, they don’t miss a beat because each teacher is teaching the same concepts at the same pace.”

LEP students in Grades K–4 also experience *Espanol to English*, in conjunction with *Language for Learning*, followed by *Language for Thinking* to enrich their vocabularies.

In addition, students in Grade 4 may advance to *Language for Writing* so they can gain independence as writers. In Grades 5–8, beginning LEP students experience *Espanol to English* and *Language for Learning*.

Hopkins said *Language for Learning* is key for LEP students.

“This program teaches academic vocabulary so well,” she said. “Not only does it help our LEP students with reading, but now we know this knowledge transfers into math and language achievement as well.”



* Before SRA reading programs were adopted district-wide.



Hopkins said the district’s classroom and intervention teachers, instructional coaches, and principals deserve all the credit.

“Our teachers talk to each other and help each other, and our kids reap the benefits. It’s really rewarding to have consistent programs throughout our schools, and it’s even more rewarding to work with such incredibly devoted educators,” Hopkins said.

About Vallivue School District #139

This district covers more than 140 square miles and serves nearly 5,900 students in Grades Pre-K–12. The student population is 69% Caucasian, 29% Hispanic, and 2% multicultural. Fifty-six percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, and 12% are classified as English Language Learners (ELL). For more information, please go to <http://sd139.k12.id.us>.

For More Information

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