Florida Exceptional Students Attain Reading Proficiency With SRA/McGraw-Hill Programs

Nearly one-quarter of all students at Bonneville Elementary School participate in Exceptional Student Education (ESE). Their exceptionalities vary widely in severity, yet each one has achieved reading proficiency levels as measured by Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) since 2004. Principal Kimberly Bias credits SRA/McGraw-Hill’s reading programs, a “Dream Team” staff, hard-working students, and involved parents.

“Open Court Reading is our core reading program for all students in Grades Pre-K–5,” she explained. “We also use Open Court Classics as an extension of learning for high performers in Grades 2–5.”

“If a student requires intervention, teachers use one or more SRA reading programs (Language for Learning, Kaleidoscope, Early Interventions in Reading, or Corrective Reading) above and beyond the 90-minute reading block each day. Students who require intensive intervention use Reading Mastery Plus as their core reading program. The comprehensive programs provide our educators the foundational skills necessary for teaching students to be successful readers and lifelong learners,” Dr. Bias added.

While reading success is now prevalent at Bonneville Elementary School, this wasn’t the case before Open Court Reading was implemented during the 2002–2003 school year. In fact, only 52% of Grade 5 students scored proficient or advanced in reading on Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) in 2002.

By 2006, 72% attained that same level, an increase of 20 percentage points. In addition, the state of Florida has continuously awarded the school an A grade since 2003. This is significant progress considering the student population: 35% Hispanic, 54% qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, 18% are English Language Learners, and 24% are eligible for Exceptional Student Education services.

Bonneville Elementary School; Orlando, FL

### About the School:

- **Grades:** PreK-6
- **Number of Students:** 600
- **Test(s):** FCAT
- **Reduced Price Lunch:** 54%

### About the Students:

- **African American:** 6%
- **Caucasian:** 52%
- **Hispanic:** 35%
- **Asian:** -
- **Other:** 7%
- **ELL:** 18%

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Dr. Bias said another key to student success is ongoing professional development provided by SRA. New teachers undergo intensive training, and seasoned teachers participate in refresher courses. SRA consultants also provide classroom modeling throughout each school year.

“Our educators are teaching with fidelity,” she said. “That, coupled with continuous progress-monitoring, helps us ensure every single child is on track. If there’s even the slightest indication of concern, we begin intervention.”

The mobility rate at Bonneville Elementary School is fairly high – 31%. Dr. Bias said progress-monitoring especially helps target these new students as quickly as possible. “Some children need more intervention than others, but we know these structured, systematic programs will get them up to speed,” she said.

About Bonneville Elementary School
Serving approximately 600 students in Grades Pre-K–5, this elementary school’s population is 52% Caucasian, 35% Hispanic, 7% multicultural, and 6% African American. Fifty-four percent qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, 18% are classified as English Language Learners, and 24% are eligible for Exceptional Student Education services. For more information about Bonneville Elementary School, visit www.bonneville.ocps.net.

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.