



About the School:		About the Students:	
Grades:	K-8	African American:	-
Number of Students:	220	Caucasian:	63%
Test(s):	CST	Hispanic:	37%
Reduced Price Lunch:	46%	Asian:	-
		Other:	-
		ELL:	28%



California Blue Ribbon School Closes Achievement Gap with Reading Mastery

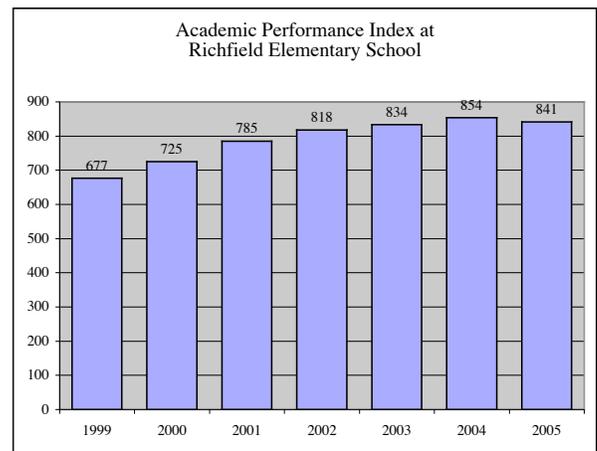
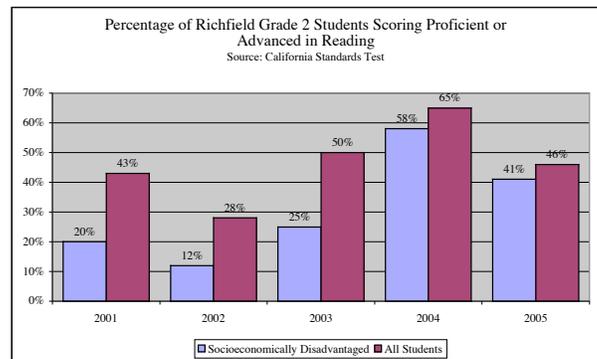
The achievement gap between all students at Richfield Elementary School and those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged is closing, thanks in part to SRA/McGraw-Hill's Direct Instruction. By 2005, 41% of socioeconomically disadvantaged students in Grade 2 scored proficient or advanced in reading and language arts on the California Standards Test (CST), up from 20% in 2001.

Richfield Elementary School teachers adopted *Reading Mastery* in Grades K-8 in the mid 1990s. They implemented two other Direct Instruction programs at that same time: *Language for Learning* in Grades K-2 and *Corrective Reading* for struggling readers in Grades 4-8. *Spelling Mastery* was incorporated into the curriculum in Grades K-6 in the late 1990s.

Direct Instruction is a teaching methodology that provides a structured learning process, breaking learning strategies into sub-skills students practice to mastery and continuously review. One of the leading Direct Instruction programs is *Reading Mastery*.

Since the Direct Instruction programs began, students' reading skills have improved school-wide, and more students now read at grade level. In fact, most students in Grades 6-8 have been placed in regular literature classes to prepare for rigorous English Language Arts standards on the CST.

In addition to watching students' reading skills improve, teachers have also watched the school's overall Academic Performance Index (API) increase. The state implemented the API in 1999 to measure student academic achievement in all public schools. Richfield Elementary School's API was 677 in 1999 and rose to 841 by 2005.





Cindy Fralin, Direct Instruction coach, curriculum coordinator, and teacher, said the Grade 2 CST score dipped slightly in 2005 because of an influx of students. “We only have one classroom at each grade level, so if a handful of children leave the school or are new to the school, test scores can vary a great deal. This, in turn, affects our API score, which also decreased slightly. However, we’re still ranked number two in the county, and we’re proud of our students’ progress.”

Fralin said Direct Instruction has helped many Richfield Elementary School students become life-long readers and learners.

“I’m a true believer and big advocate of Direct Instruction,” she explained. “Its programs have made a very big difference among so many of our students, often turning them into avid readers. The Direct Instruction programs implemented in the lower grades ensure that our students are reading at grade level and are able to be successful in the upper grades. Our local high school reports that our students are well-prepared for its curriculum.”

State and National Recognition

The U.S. Department of Education named Richfield Elementary School a No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School in 2004. The Blue Ribbon School Program recognizes schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose students achieve at very high levels. The school also received the Governor’s Site Performance Award and the Governor’s Reading Award in 2001 and has achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) every year it has been measured nationwide (2003-2005).

About Richfield Elementary School

Located among rural orchards and small farms, this Title I school serves more than 200 students in Grades K-8 in the Tehama County School District. The student population is 63% Caucasian and 37% Hispanic. Forty-six percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, and 28% have limited English proficiency (LEP). For more information about Richfield Elementary School, visit www.tcde.tehama.k12.ca.us/richfieldsd.html.

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**.
