

INDEPENDENT IMPACT STUDY

Blake Primary (AZ) Native American Students Exceed State Average on AIMS

Implementation Objectives

As a *Title I* school, Blake Primary in Parker, Arizona, serves a large Native American ELL population. The school needed a scientifically-based, K-3 reading program that was proven effective with all students. In an effort to improve student reading skills and performance on Arizona's high-stakes assessment, AIMS (Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards), Blake Primary began implementing the Voyager Universal Literacy System[®] (ULS) in grades K-3 during the 2003-2004 school year.

In order to increase student performance on the AIMS assessment, the partnership between Voyager and Blake Primary emphasized:

- A strategy to address the needs of a diverse student population, with added emphasis on the ELL population
- Built-in progress monitoring and assessment
- Comprehensive launch training with all teachers
- Integrated, ongoing professional development
- Ongoing implementation support including site visits, web site, email, and phone support

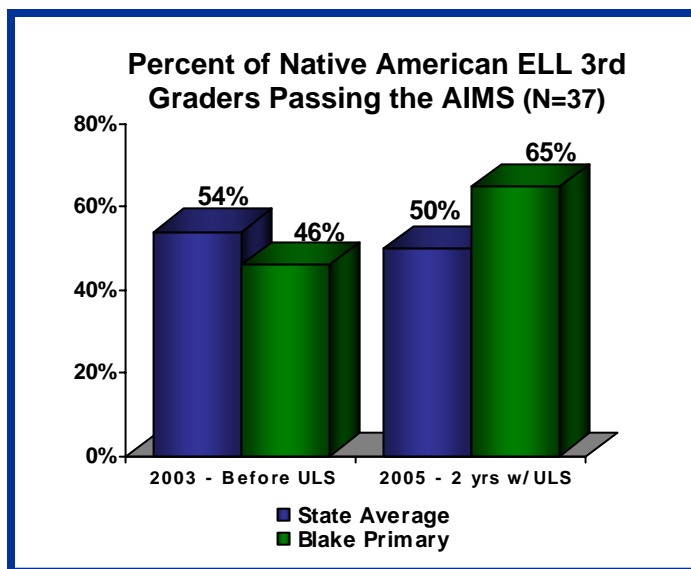
Methodology

Blake Primary Native American ELL third grade students in Universal Literacy were measured using Arizona's high-stakes assessment, AIMS Category 2—which reports on students whose first language is not English and are in the process of learning English. Proficiency on the assessment in 2003 (prior to implementation of ULS) was compared to proficiency levels in 2005 (after two years with ULS), and to Arizona's Native American ELL third grade average.

Findings

In 2003, before ULS, third grade Native American ELL students at Blake Primary performed well-below the state on the reading portion of AIMS. After two years in ULS, these students outperformed their Native American ELL peers in the state of Arizona.

Blake Primary is currently in its third year using the Voyager Universal Literacy System in grades K-3.



PROFILE

School Years: 2003-2004;
2004-2005

Location: Parker, AZ

School: Blake Primary School

District: Parker Unified School
District

Grade Levels: K-3

Number of Students: 592

Voyager Program: The Voyager
Universal Literacy System[®]

Assessment Tool: AIMS
(Arizona's Instrument to
Measure Standards)

Demographic Data:

42% Native American*

30% Hispanic

26% Caucasian

2% Other

74% of students eligible for free
or reduced lunch

*ELL Native American 3rd
grade students is the only
population in this study.

KEY FINDINGS

- In 2005, Blake Primary saw a 35% increase in the number of Native American ELL third graders achieving proficiency on AIMS.
- After two years in ULS, Native American ELL third graders at Blake Primary outperformed their Native American ELL peers in the state of Arizona on the 2005 AIMS.

“Our teachers are working so well together to make sure kids reach their goals... we continually see progress.”

– Lori Bachmann, Principal, Blake Primary School

