

# Wilson Primary School; Phoenix, AZ

## About the School:

Grades: PreK-3  
Number of Students: 813  
Test(s): SAT/9  
Reduced Price Lunch: 68%

## About the Students:

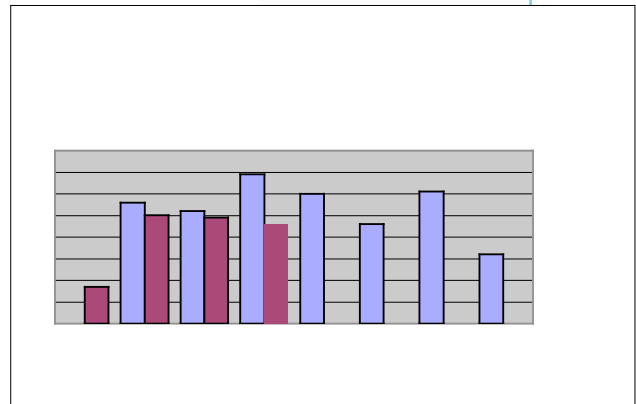
African American: 4%  
Caucasian: 3%  
Hispanic: 90%  
Asian: 1%  
Native American: 2%  
ELL: 62%

## Phoenix Inner-City Students Strive Toward National Reading Average

After implementing *Reading Mastery* in Grades 1-3 at the start of the 1998-1999 school year, educators at Wilson Primary School noted that students' reading scores began rising steadily toward the national average. These are significant achievements for a school that serves the poorest population in the city and has a high mobility rate of 68%. Many parents and children speak almost no English.

"Direct Instruction is the main contributing factor for our success in reading," Principal Leanne Morse said. "The reading programs are great instructional tools, no doubt about it." Direct Instruction's *Language for Learning* is taught to Kindergarteners and English Language Learners (ELL) in Grades 1-3. Other students use *Reading Mastery*.

Morse said the Grade 3 scores dipped to the 34<sup>th</sup> percentile in 2002 because in previous years the state reported only the scores of students who had received three years of English instruction. "The dip in 2002 was due to a greater number of English Language Learner students being included in the aggregation," Morse said. "Despite the lower score, our students are learning English, developing reading fluency, and producing better results than other schools with similar demographics."



In 2005, students began taking the Terra Nova; however, SAT/9 and Terra Nova scores cannot be compared.

The state ranked Wilson Primary School as Performing Plus in 2005, up from Underperforming in 2003. The school also achieved Adequate Yearly Progress

