

Open Court Reading and Reading Mastery Combine to Create Successful Elementary Reading Program

Frank Hartsfield Elementary School routinely receives straight As from the state of Florida, and has been earning that mark every year from 1999-2004!

But academic achievement in reading was a different story in the early 1990s. Lagging reading test scores prompted educators to investigate the validity of their reading programs. A thorough analysis revealed that Grades 1 and 2 teachers used a variety of approaches to teach reading, with little consistency in instruction.

The resulting problems were clear in the test scores. Florida students in Grades 3-10 take the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) each spring. The test includes five achievement Levels, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest. In 1998, the percentage of Hartsfield students in Grades 3-

During the 1998-1999 school year, Hartsfield educators added another SRA/McGraw-Hill reading program, Direct Instruction's