

## **Anchorage School's Diverse Population Flourishes with Direct Instruction**

In a learning environment where 20 languages are spoken and 88% of the students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, students at Mountain View Elementary School are defying the language and poverty barriers to achieve increased reading proficiency with SRA/McGraw-Hill's Direct Instruction

After experiencing Direct Instruction's \_\_\_\_\_ for one year, 43% of Grade 3 students met or exceeded state reading standards in 2002, up from 27% the year before. By 2005, that percentage increased to 65.

"That spike is definitely because of \_\_\_\_\_," explained reading coach Patricia Jackson.

### **Diversity is Celebrated**

Forty percent of the students at Mountain View Elementary School are bilingual, and more than half of those students' parents are non-English speakers. Many families are either from the Dominican Republic and speak Spanish or are from northern Thailand and speak Hmong. Therefore, translators attend school functions to reduce the communication barrier between teachers and parents. The Mountain View staff also conducts Parent University on Friday nights to teach various skills, including literacy and math so parents can help their children with homework as well as improve their own skills.

### **Direct Instruction + Mountain View Students = Reading Proficiency**

To increase reading proficiency school-wide, teachers implemented several Direct Instruction programs at the start of the 2001-2002 school year.

