

Northside & Parkside Elementary Schools; Monroe, WI

About the School:

Grades: PreK-5
Number of Students: 339 / 358
Test(s): WRCT
Reduced Price Lunch: 15% / 30%

About the Students:

African American: 2% / 3%
Caucasian: 95% / 93%
Hispanic: 3% / 3%
Asian:
Other: 0% / 1%
ELL

All Grade 3 Students in Two Monroe, Wisconsin Elementary Schools Score Proficient or Advanced in Reading

Every single Grade 3 student in two elementary schools within the Monroe School District scored Proficient or Advanced on the Wisconsin Reading Comprehension Test (WRCT) in 2005. Their principals believe that part of the overwhelming success can be attributed to a Direct Instruction program from SRA/McGraw-Hill called *Reading Mastery*, which is used with at-risk and special education students at the two schools. Because these students must be considered the same as general education students for testing purposes under No Child Left Behind, the fact that they passed reading standards on the WRCT helped ensure the entire grade met state standards.

Implementing the Strongest Program

Teachers at Parkside Elementary School implemented *Reading Mastery* with at-risk and special education students in Grades 1-5 in the mid-1990s. The program was added to Kindergarten at the start of the 2004-2005 school year.

Now about one-third to one-half of students in each grade experience *Reading Mastery* every day.

Principal Jim Brunette said the program works well in his school. "*Reading Mastery* is a proven, research-based reading program that really helps struggling readers. It works well in K-2 because it is sequential and phonics-based, which helps students sound out words and read aloud. Once they begin reading, we work with them in Grades 3-5 to help them comprehend what they read," Brunette said.

