

Miami Elementary School Boosts FCAT Scores with Reading Mastery

At Parkway Elementary School in Miami-Dade County, FL, the percentage of Grades 3-5 students reading at or above grade level soared from 7% to 57% between 1997 and 2005!

Principal Patricia Zell said the school scored the lowest in the region before implementing SRA/McGraw-Hill's Direct Instruction program *Reading Mastery*.

"The teaching staff decided a systematic phonics-based reading program would be the best choice for our students," Zell said. "So when the district offered to pilot *Reading Mastery* in our school, we jumped at the opportunity." Now all grades use *Reading Mastery* at Parkway Elementary School.

Zell said one of her most memorable moments occurred when a Pre-K student said the only thing she wanted when a Pre-K student

In 1999, only 29% of Grade 4 students scored at or above Level 3 on FCAT reading. By 2005, that percentage more than doubled to 60%.

What Teachers Say

Parkway Elementary School teachers agree that *Reading Mastery* was the best choice for their students.

“Every teacher in this school backs the program because they can see the results,” Zell said. “We don’t teach to the FCAT. We teach reading – we teach the standards and benchmarks through *Reading Mastery*. That’s why we’ve been so successful.”

About Parkway Elementary School

Parkway Elementary School is part of the Miami-Dade School District and serves roughly 554 children in Grades Pre-K–5. The student population is 94% African American, 3% Hispanic, 1% Asian, 1% Caucasian, and 1% multicultural. Ninety-