Sneads Elementary School; Sneads, FL

About the School:

Grades:	PreK-5
Number of Students:	509
Test(s):	FCAT
Reduced Price Lunch:	52%

About the Students:

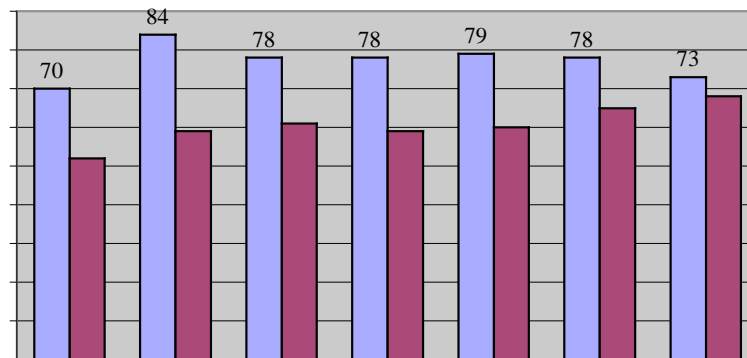|	
African American:	14%
Caucasian:	81%
Hispanic:	2%
Asian:	
Other:	3%
ELL	

Combination of Open Court Reading and Direct Instruction Equal Consistently High Reading Scores

For nearly 30 years, educators at Sneads Elementary School have remained committed to SRA/McGraw-Hill's *Open Court Reading* program. As a result, their students consistently score well above the state average on the reading portion of the annual Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

The FCAT includes five levels of achievement, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest. The percentage of Sneads' students scoring at or above Level 3 on the reading portion of the FCAT consistently remains well above the state average. In addition, Sneads Elementary School has received As from the state of Florida, based on its FCAT scores.

Percentage of Grades 3-5 Students Scoring At or Above Level 3 Compared to State Average
Source: FCAT Reading

FCAT scores were the determining factor when the Institute for Small and Rural School Districts ranked Sneads in the top 25 of small and rural schools statewide for reading performance in 2002. Current Principal Cheryl McDaniel said the school also received the Star School Award from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools from 2002 through 2004 for its high academic performance.

"The teaching staff deserves the credit for each of these accolades," McDaniel said. "They continuously monitor the implementation of program strategies and mentor each other to ensure our students succeed with *Open Court Reading*."

Students at Sneads also score well on the SAT/9 assessment test. In 2003, an all-time high of 96% of Grade 1 students scored at or above the 50th percentile. In addition, 90% of Grade 2 students scored at or above the 50th percentile.

About the Implementation
Sneads implemented *Open Court Reading* in 1975. Retired Principal Virginia Blount said the school does not plan to use any other program in the future. "We're committed to providing what's best for the children, and that's *Open Court Reading,*" she said.

Open Court Reading is used in Grades K-5. Two other SRA/McGraw-Hill Direct Instruction programs are used with struggling readers – *Reading Mastery*