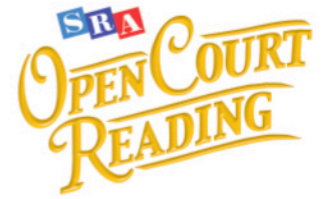




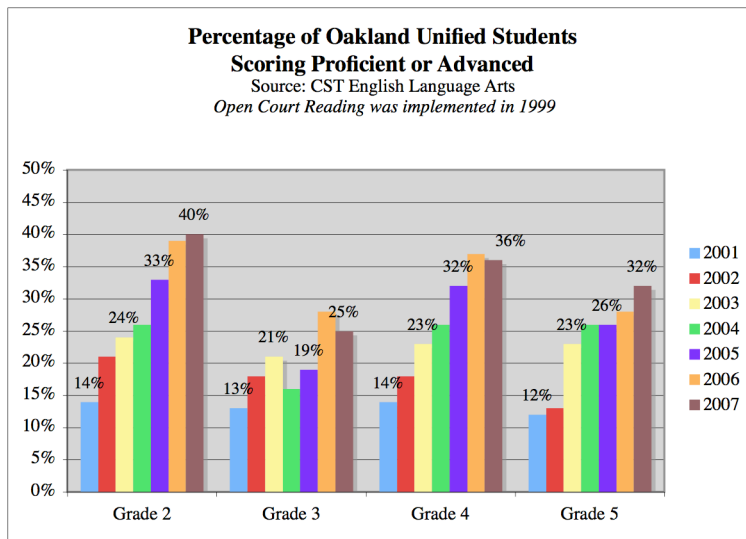
About the District:		About the Students:	
Grades:	PreK-12	African American:	36%
Number of Students:	48,906	Caucasian:	6%
Test(s):	CST	Hispanic:	37%
Reduced Price Lunch:	69%	Asian:	14%
		Other:	7%
		ELL:	30%



## Ethnically Diverse California District Makes Strides with Open Court Reading and Spanish Companion Program

Oakland Unified School District serves an ethnically, linguistically, and economically diverse student population, making it imperative to provide high quality instruction for all students. Prior to adopting *Open Court Reading* in 1999, Oakland Unified School District entered into a voluntary agreement with the Office of Civil Rights to address a variety of issues including Equal Access to Standards Based Instruction. A key component of equal access to high quality instruction is the provision of standards-based textbooks for every student in every school. *Open Court Reading* was adopted as the district-wide reading program for Grades K–5. The first year, *Open Court Reading* was implemented fully in Grades K–3, using the Intervention Kit in Grades 4–5. The following year the full program was extended to Grades 4–5.

Since the implementation of *Open Court Reading* and its Spanish version *Foro abierto*, Oakland Unified School District has experienced strong gains on the California Standards Test (CST). The percentage of students scoring Proficient or Advanced are shown in the chart on the below.



In addition, the district’s Academic Performance Index (API) has increased since adopting *Open Court Reading*. The API is a numeric index ranging from 200 to 1,000. It measures a school’s academic growth from year to year. Before adopting *Open Court Reading*, the API of most of Oakland’s lower performing elementary schools was in the 400s. Last year, most of these same sites have increased this academic indicator to close to 700 and in some cases over 700, according to Mary Pippitt Cervantes, the district’s English Language Arts coordinator for Grades Pre-K–5.



Debbie Bourne Walsh, a teacher at Horace Mann Elementary School in the Oakland Unified School District, said, “I notice that each year my students leave the classroom more prepared than the previous year’s students. I think this is due to our focus and work on improving student achievement. In the past few years we’ve been focusing on making the language arts curriculum accessible to English learners. I’m really seeing the payoff this year. With frontloading strategies and interventions in place, all students, not just English learners, are thriving. They’re speaking in complete, on-topic sentences that demonstrate their reading comprehension. They’re writing coherent responses to literature. They’re reading! They’re loving to read!”

### **Curriculum Connections Add Opportunities for Creativity**

Oakland Unified School District has developed a strong collaboration with MOCHA (Museum of Children’s Art) to integrate the visual arts into the *Open Court Reading* program. “The Art in Open Court: Making Connections,” written by MOCHA’s artists, connects art lessons to the lessons in *Open Court*. This successful partnership has provided curriculum connections and support to teams of K–1 teachers across the district. This summer, a Grade 2 expansion will be available with Grades 3–5 being added in future years.

### **Family Reading Nights Build Parental Support**

Another key to the district’s success is the Oakland Parents Literacy Project, which was established to improve the reading skills of students in Oakland’s public schools. The group holds routine Family Reading Nights where parents can work with their children on reading skills and games to support the success students have experienced using SRA/McGraw-Hill’s *Open Court Reading*.

Professional storytellers and guest readers share the joy of reading, parents and teachers form new bonds, and every child receives a gift book to take home.

### **About Oakland Unified School District**

Serving 48,906 students in Grades Pre-K-12, Oakland Unified School District’s student population is 37% Hispanic, 36% African American, 14% Asian, 6% Caucasian, and 7% multicultural. Thirty percent are English Language Learners, and 69% qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. For more information, please visit [OUSD.k12.ca.us](http://OUSD.k12.ca.us).

### **For More Information**

If you would like to learn more about success with *Open Court Reading* in your school or district, please contact us today at **1-888-SRA-4543**.