

# SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

## CASE STUDY

### Florida School Improves from a “C” to an “A” on the Florida A+ Accountability Plan

*Significant Gains also Made on the FCAT*

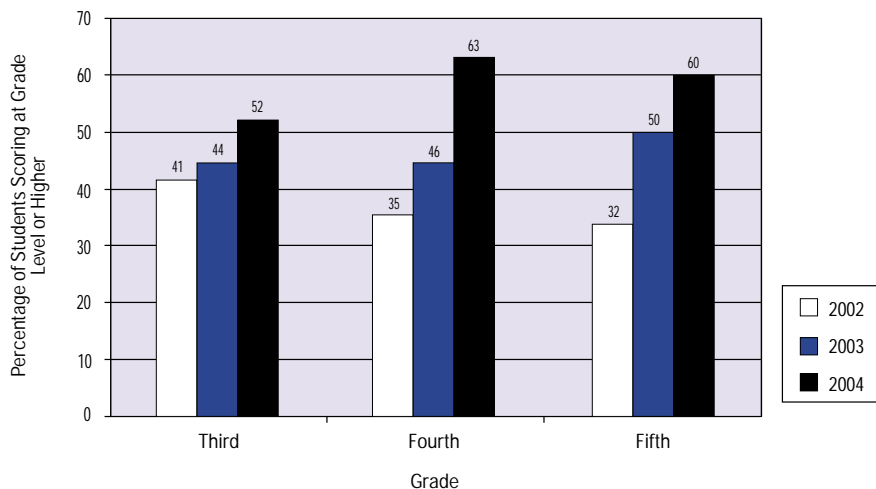
Source: Eileen Castle, principal

Research conducted during: 2003–2004

#### Introduction

After implementing Accelerated Reader™ (AR™) in 2002, Lake Alfred Elementary improved from a “C” to an “A” in the Florida A+ accountability system<sup>1</sup>. In addition, the percentage of students scoring at grade level, proficient, or advanced on the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test (FCAT)<sup>2</sup> improved each year for each grade level.

Third-, Fourth-, and Fifth-Grade FCAT Reading Results Improve



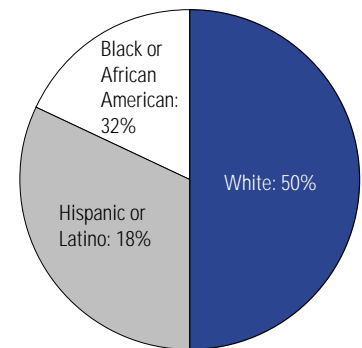
#### School Profile

Lake Alfred Elementary School  
Students: 450, Grades: Pre-K–5  
Lake Alfred, Fla.

#### Demographics

Urban  
Limited English proficiency: 5.1%  
Free or reduced lunch: 75%

#### Race/Ethnicity



#### Educator Background

**Eileen Castle** has been a principal for 20 years. Prior to becoming principal, she taught Kindergarten and first grade, and worked on reading curriculum and Title I administration in the Polk County School Board Office. In 1993, Eileen won the Polk County Employee Award. She received a bachelor's degree in History from Rutgers University and a master's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Florida.

(more information on back)

