

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

CASE STUDY

Texas School District Increases Test Scores, Narrows the Gap with Reading Renaissance®

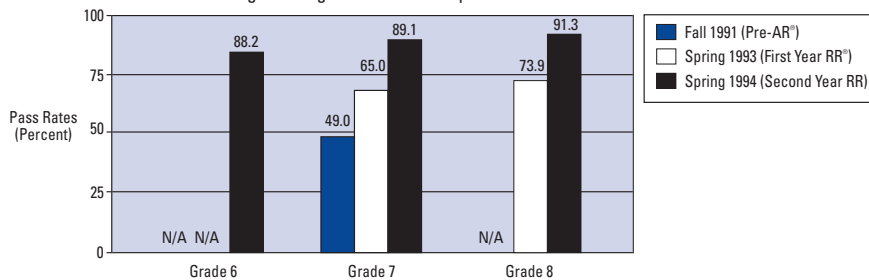
Source: Don Peek, principal.

Research conducted during the 1998 school year.

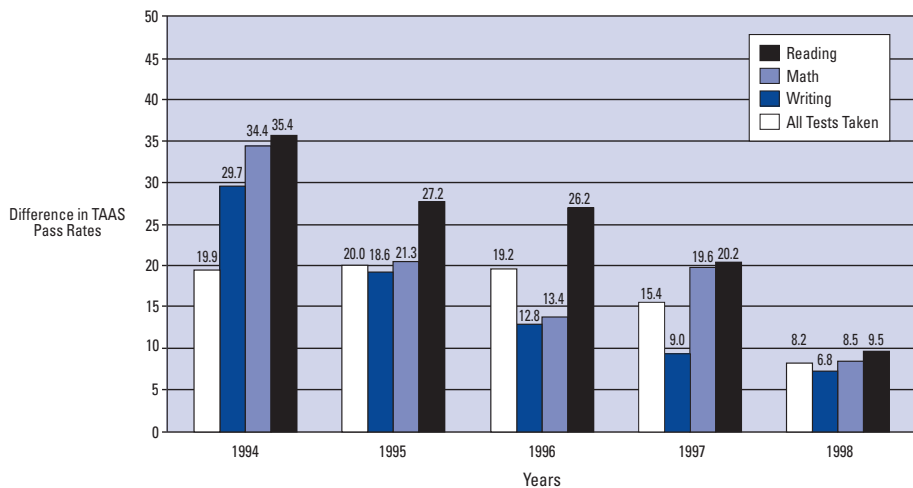
Introduction

The implementation of Reading Renaissance software and practices helped educators at Pittsburg Middle School and Pittsburg ISD increase TAAS pass rates and narrow the achievement gap between non-economically disadvantaged and economically disadvantaged students. The improvement in TAAS pass rates and narrowing of the achievement gap from 1991 (pre-Reading Renaissance) to 1994 is shown below.

Graph 1. TAAS Reading Pass Rates Improve Following Reading Renaissance Implementation



Graph 2. TAAS Performance Achievement Gap Narrows Between Non-Economically Disadvantaged and Economically Disadvantaged Students



School Profile

Pittsburg Middle School
 Students: 500, grades: 6–8
 Pittsburg, Texas

Demographics

Rural Chapter I: 60%
 Free or reduced lunch: 45%
 Mobility: 20%
 Minorities: 36%

Pittsburg Independent School District (ISD)
 Pittsburg, Texas
 Students: 2,100; grades pre-K to 12

Educator Backgrounds

Don Peek, a 20-year veteran of the Texas public school system, was principal of Pittsburg Middle School. Later, he became Pittsburg ISD's assistant superintendent for instruction.

(more information on back)

