

Longitudinal Study Shows New York School Boosts Degrees of Reading Power (DRP®) Reading Scores

Source: Cindy Pileggi, teacher, Albion Primary School
Research conducted during the 1999 school year.

Study Description

Albion Primary School began using Accelerated Reader® (AR™) during the 1995–96 school year. In October 1996, they sent their first teacher to Renaissance™ training. By June 1997, three classrooms at the school became certified as Renaissance Model Classrooms, indicating solid implementations of Reading Renaissance®. In 1998, 15 additional classrooms were certified. Four more were certified in 1999. The current number of Model-certified Classrooms at Albion is 24.

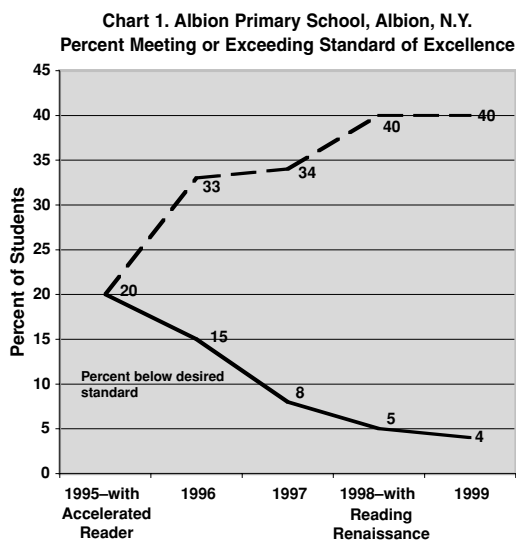
A key aspect of Reading Renaissance is a good motivational system. Pileggi employs various motivators, including: verbal encouragement, point clubs, classroom competitions, and schoolwide Read-A-Thons and Olympics. In addition, she participates in a reading buddy program with a first-grade teacher at the school. Students who reach at least 80 percent of their points-goal for the week become a reading buddy for a first-grader the following week. Pileggi says, "Everyone benefits from this experience—students and teachers alike."

To assess reading ability, Albion Central School District administers the DRP comprehension exam in grades one through six at the end of each school year. If students score below a certain minimum level, they are required to attend summer school. Later they are retested in order to advance to the next grade. In addition, a high-level "Standard of Excellence" score has been established for each grade.

Results

Since the adoption of AR and implementation of Reading Renaissance techniques, Albion's DRP scores have progressively increased over a four-year period for grades two through six. Furthermore, Pileggi reports that her second-grade students' 1997–99 scores on districtwide mathematics tests also increased, demonstrating that students who read more do better in other subjects.

Chart 1 below, shows the percentage of students meeting or exceeding the DRP Standard of Excellence level has increased, while the percentage scoring below the minimum standard has decreased between 1995 and 1999.



School Profile

Albion Primary School

Albion, N.Y.

Students: 1,067, Grades K–4

Demographics:

Rural

Title I

Free or reduced lunch: 42%

ESL: 4%

Minorities: 9%

Educator Background

Cindy Pileggi has taught at Albion Primary School for 28 years and currently teaches second grade. She received a B.S. from Brockport State University in New York, where she also completed graduate studies. Pileggi attended both Reading Renaissance seminars in 1998 and is a certified Renaissance Model Educator.

For more information, or for additional copies of this report, contact:



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