



DYSART UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of Community Relations

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Dysart academic achievement continues to rise

DYSART SCHOOLS — Dysart Unified School District students have, once again, demonstrated continual increases in academic achievement by the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) assessment. Student test scores in grades 3 – 10 show an increase in the number of students meeting or exceeding the state standards in mathematics, reading and writing from last year as well as a dramatic increase from 2004-2009. The Dysart School District's 23,000 students continue to outpace the state improvement average in these same areas.

An analysis of the AIMS achievement data from 2009 demonstrates a solid and sustained effort to raise student achievement within the Dysart School District. Every grade level has seen a marked improvement in achievement in mathematics, reading and writing. Individual grade level results reveal substantial increases in student success. 90 percent of students in the sixth grade met or exceeded the standards in writing in 2009, up from 76 percent in 2008. This continuing increase in student achievement is credited to a direct, specific focus upon rigorous curriculum and instruction as well as student engagement. Other grade levels have seen substantial increases in all areas as well. 71 percent of sophomores met or exceeded the state standards in math in 2009 compared to 67 percent in 2008. Additionally, 76 percent of fourth grade students met or exceeded the AIMS standards in reading in 2009 compared to 71 percent in 2008.

Dysart Superintendent, Dr. Gail Pletnick, stated that the increased AIMS scores and ever improving academic program in Dysart can be directly related to the coordinated efforts and dedication of Dysart's teachers, staff, administrators and the support of the community to raising expectations. Dysart's focus under Pletnick's leadership has been to build and sustain increased instructional capacity and center on student engagement. "Our primary goal has been to work together to raise student achievement for all students within the district. These achievements reflect an increase in rigorous instruction and specific student interventions provided by our teachers and staff. Due to the dedication and hard work of our teachers, our students continue to demonstrate substantial increases in academic achievement and we look forward to their continued growth in the future."

The Dysart School District has also received awards for its dedication to the increase of student achievement. In 2009, Dysart received the NCA Model District Award. Dysart was the only Arizona school district to receive the NCA honor. Additionally, Dysart received the Arizona Department of Education Spotlight On Success Award for its K-3 reading program, Read 2 Succeed. Resources for the Read 2 Succeed Program are funded through a voter passed override, providing a consistent focus to the instruction of reading as well as intervention opportunities for students geared to meet their specific needs.

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