

October, 2007

Gates Elementary School has met AYP for another year. Both our ISAT and IMAGE scores for grades 3-5 averaged above the required 47.5%. Here is a brief summary of the scores of sub groups needing support:

	THIRD GRADE		FOURTH GRADE			FIFTH GRADE					
	ISAT		IMAGE	ISAT		IMAGE		ISAT		IMAGE	
	R	M	R	R	R	M	R	M	R	M	
Male	38	62	50	63	60	63	41	50	50	62	
Hispanic	50	70	54	64	65	70	51	64	57	55	
Low Income	54	70	52	61	66	67	49	64	57	52	

As with any accomplishment, there is always room for improvement. Since the percentage needed will be going up to 62.5 this year, we cannot be satisfied with staying where we are. As a staff, we have looked at the ISAT and IMAGE scores to see where we can continue to improve. Based on the data, we have identified the sub groups, skills, and individual students needing more work.

In reading the subgroups needing the most support are males, low income and Hispanics. Although showing significant progress from 3 to 5th grade, these same groups are still the low subgroups by the end of 5th grade. Vocabulary and reading strategies are the areas needing improvement in two or more grades. Our Reading Coach will be available to model and offer staff development in the area of reading. We will form a boys club to help them in their low skill areas. Teachers are encouraged to attend staff development presentations that are in the area.

Although we continue to be above the AYP goal for math, our scores dropped in male, (3rd ISAT, 4th IMAGE, 5th IMAGE) Hispanics, (3rd ISAT) and low income (4th Image) sub groups. Number sense, probability, and extended responses are the specific skills we need added support for. From 3rd to 5th the same three subgroups did not show improvement. Teachers who have shown success have been encouraged to share what has worked for them. Teachers have been encouraged to attend conferences to add support to their teaching of math.

In looking at writing scores for 5th grade along with our low scores on extended responses and open ended responses have, we have added writing as a priority in this year's plan. Females and those with IEPs were the low sub groups. We are working to develop a building wide scope for teaching writing skills and terms, that will help our students in all areas of writing. Staff development will be provided by staff members and outside presenters as we work to improve writing skills.

We are working to get all grade levels involved in preparing students for the tests. We cannot wait until they are in the tested grades. There will be cross grade level meetings and training so all grades are aware of the skills needing improvement. They will decide how they can offer help and support to the students before they get to third grade.

Providing instruction for the families in reading and math strategies will continue. Parents will be encouraged to volunteer so they can help the students and themselves practice math and reading skills. Vocabulary activities will also be provided through these activities. Family Reading and Parent Nights will continue.

The staff at Gates is committed to provide the best education to all students. Using different strategies and differentiated instruction we should be able to meet the needs of all students and move them to a higher level of success.

Janet Klemm
Principal
Gates Elementary School

