

WINDOWS

To Jordan District Schools

District Accelerates Balanced Literacy

Jordan School District has adopted a single textbook series for all elementary students in an effort to enhance its balanced literacy program.

A year ago the district adopted the literacy framework in connection with Brigham Young University and four other school districts in Utah.

The balanced literacy reading components include phonemic awareness and phonics, reading aloud, shared reading, running records, guided reading, literacy centers and independent reading. The writing components include modeled and shared writing, interactive writing, writing process, writing workshops and independent writing.

The program encourages K-6 students to take more responsibility in their learning. Teachers in the district's 53 elementary schools are in the process of completing training in such areas as instructional strategies and teaching techniques.

The Board of Education has accelerated the training of teachers in the program in an effort to have all K-4 teachers educated about the program by the end of this school year. By December 2001 all K-6 teachers will be trained in the use of balanced literacy techniques.

Parents and students are invited to learn more about balanced literacy by visiting www.jordan.k12.ut.us and clicking on the What's New section.



Students Exceed State, National ACT, AP Averages

High school students in Jordan School District continue to exceed the state and national averages on the American College Test (ACT). In addition, the students also surpassed the state and national passing rates in most Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

The ACT is a college entrance exam taken by high school juniors and seniors and is scored between 1 and 36. During the 1999-2000 school year, Jordan students scored a 21.9 composite compared to Utah's 21.5 and the nation's 21.0. Approximately 3,450 ACTs were given this past year, an increase of 325. One of the most noticeable changes indicated 267 more girls took the test than last year.

	Jordan	Utah	Nation
English	21.5	21.0	20.5
Mathematics	21.2	20.9	20.7
Reading	22.5	22.0	21.4
Science	21.8	21.5	21.0
Composite	21.9	21.5	21.0

1999-2000 ACT Comparisons

"This dramatic increase in the number of tests taken tells us more students are considering going to college. Our students are well prepared," said Dr. Frank W. Shaw, director of Accountability and Program Services. The results also indicated that students who take core classes

(English, math, social and natural sciences) scored higher on the ACT (22.9 composite compared to 21.2).

Jordan District offers 27 high school AP courses which are scored between 1 and 5; 3 and above is considered passing and college credit is awarded. Jordan's average passing rate is 73.5 percent compared to the state average of 69 percent and the national average of 63.9 percent. Jordan students also scored considerably higher than the state and national passing rates in most AP course. The district has an 80 percent or higher passing rate in courses such as English Literature and Composition, European History, Math Calculus/AB and Psychology.