

# Leverage Writing: Success Stories and More!

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# Guest Panelists

**Charlotte Chadwick**

Principal

John Bidwell Elementary School  
Sacramento City Schools, CA

**Jeff Baier**

Assistant Superintendent  
Los Altos School District, CA

**Alyssa Gallagher**

Principal

Santa Rita Elementary School  
Los Altos School District, CA

**Diane Reitz**

Director, K-12 Literacy  
Curriculum and Professional Development  
Center  
Clark County School District, Nevada

**Deena Holloway**

Coordinator, Literacy Services  
Curriculum and Professional Development Center  
Clark County School District, Nevada

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# One of Education's Little Secrets...

“Writing is not my comfort zone.  
It wasn't as a kid,  
and it isn't as a teacher.”

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# Assigner of Writing OR Teacher of Writing

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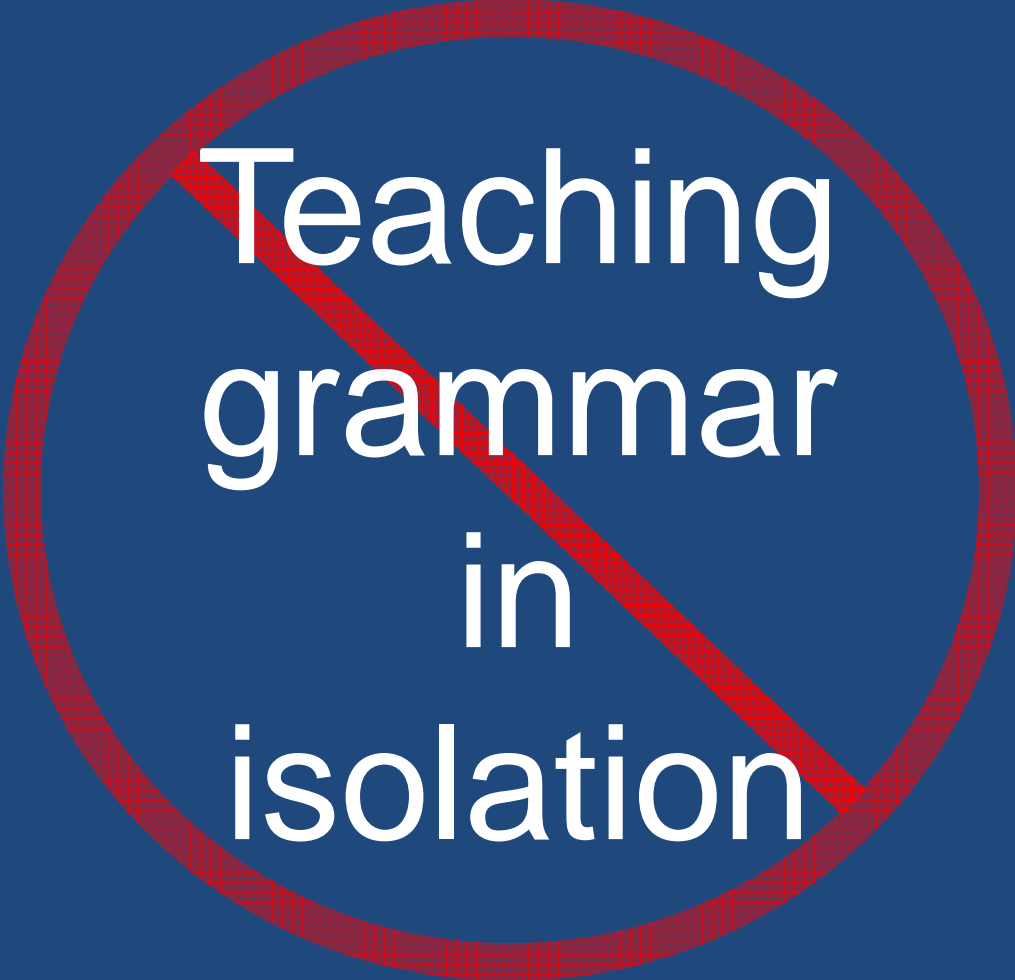
## Writing Next

Carnegie Corporation of New York

Published by Alliance for Excellent Education

### Eleven Elements of Effective Adolescent Writing Instruction (Grades 4-12)

1. Writing Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teach consistently, systematically explicitly</li></ul>
2. Summarization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Best check of comprehension</li><li>• “High yield strategy”</li></ul>
3. Collaborative Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Small groups do full writing process</li></ul>
4. Specific Product Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use kid friendly rubrics</li></ul>
5. Word Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student does full writing process on a computer</li></ul>
6. Sentence Combining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students stuck in simple sentences</li><li>• Model complex and compound sentences</li></ul>
7. Prewriting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Time spent planning is time well spent</li></ul>
8. Inquiry Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students choose topic and pose questions</li><li>• Do research</li><li>• Then write</li></ul>
9. Process Writing Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Endorsement of full writing process</li><li>• Not all steps every time</li></ul>
10. Study of Models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Show strong writing examples</li><li>• Analyze for 1 or 2 aspects</li></ul>
11. Writing for Content Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write across curriculum</li></ul>



Teaching  
grammar  
in  
isolation

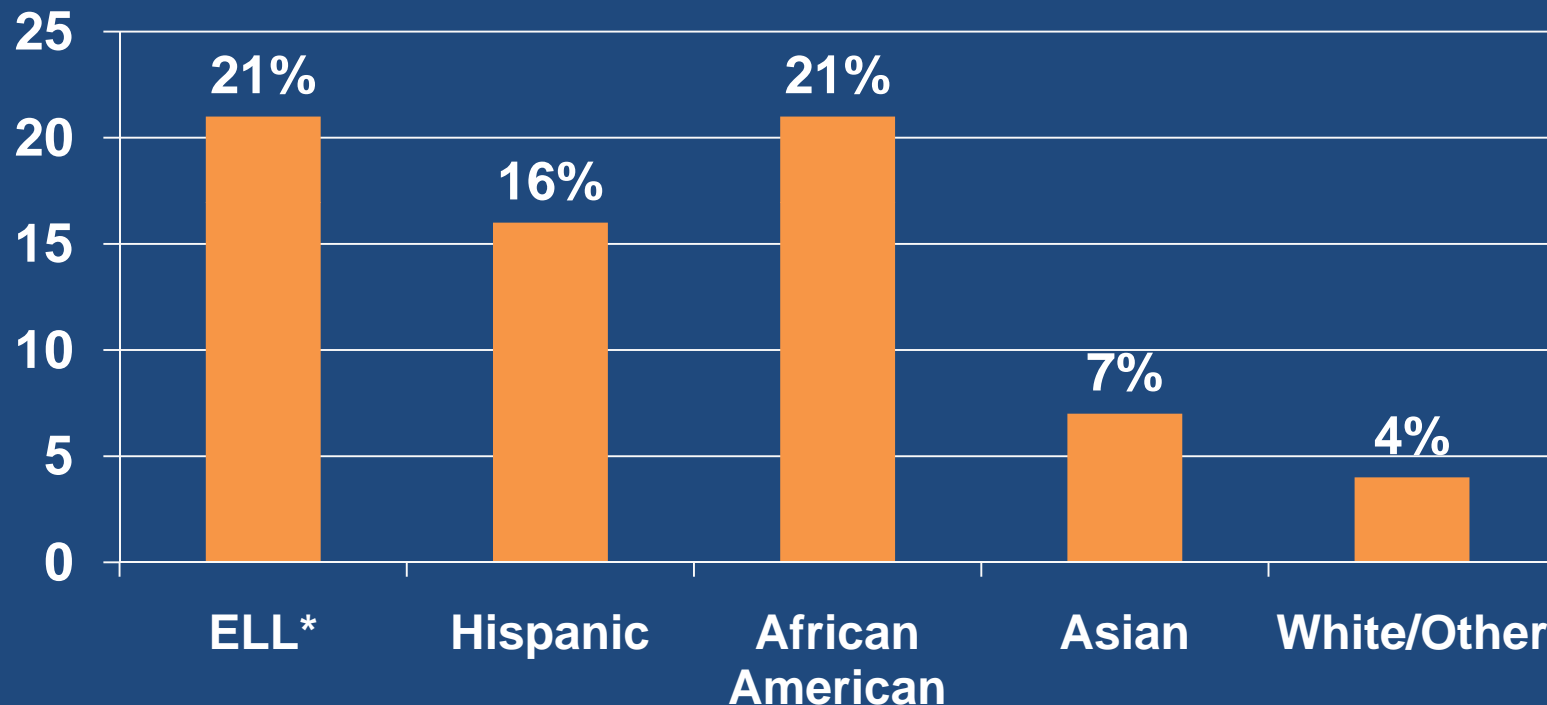
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**Charlotte Chadwick**  
**Principal**  
**John Bidwell Elementary School**  
**Sacramento City Unified School**  
**District**  
**Sacramento, CA**

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# John Bidwell Elementary School Sacramento City Schools

## Ethnic/Racial Subgroup Information

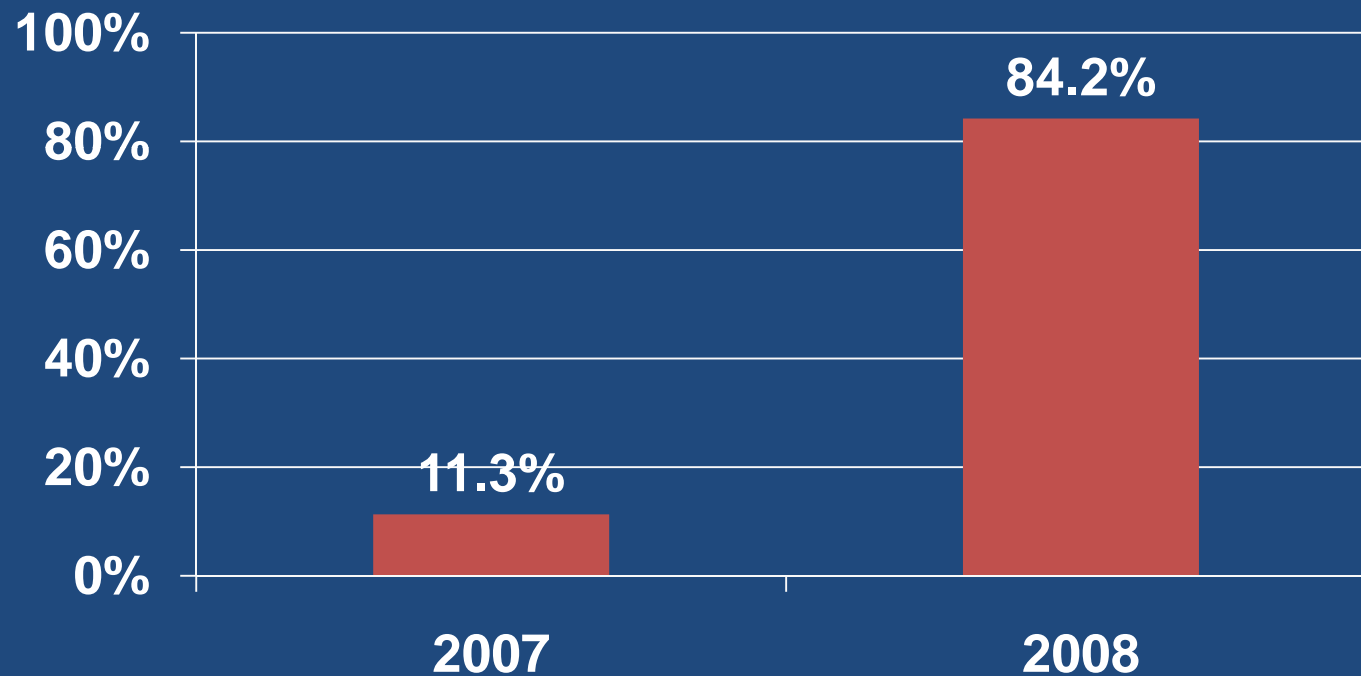


\* Will also be counted in Hispanic and Asian data.

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# John Bidwell Elementary School Sacramento City Schools

## Number of 4th Grade Students Passing Writing Assessment



**Two fourth graders achieved a perfect score of 8!**

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# Coaching Heightens Sustainability

According to Joyce and Showers (1995) and Collins (1997), coaching is the most powerful model for creating learning that has a significant and enduring impact.

Prof. Dev. Model	Understanding	Skill Attainment	Application
Presentation/Workshop	85%	15%	5-10%
Modeling	85%	18%	5-10%
Practice/low risk feedback in workshop	85%	80%	10-15%
Coaching	90%	90%	80-90%

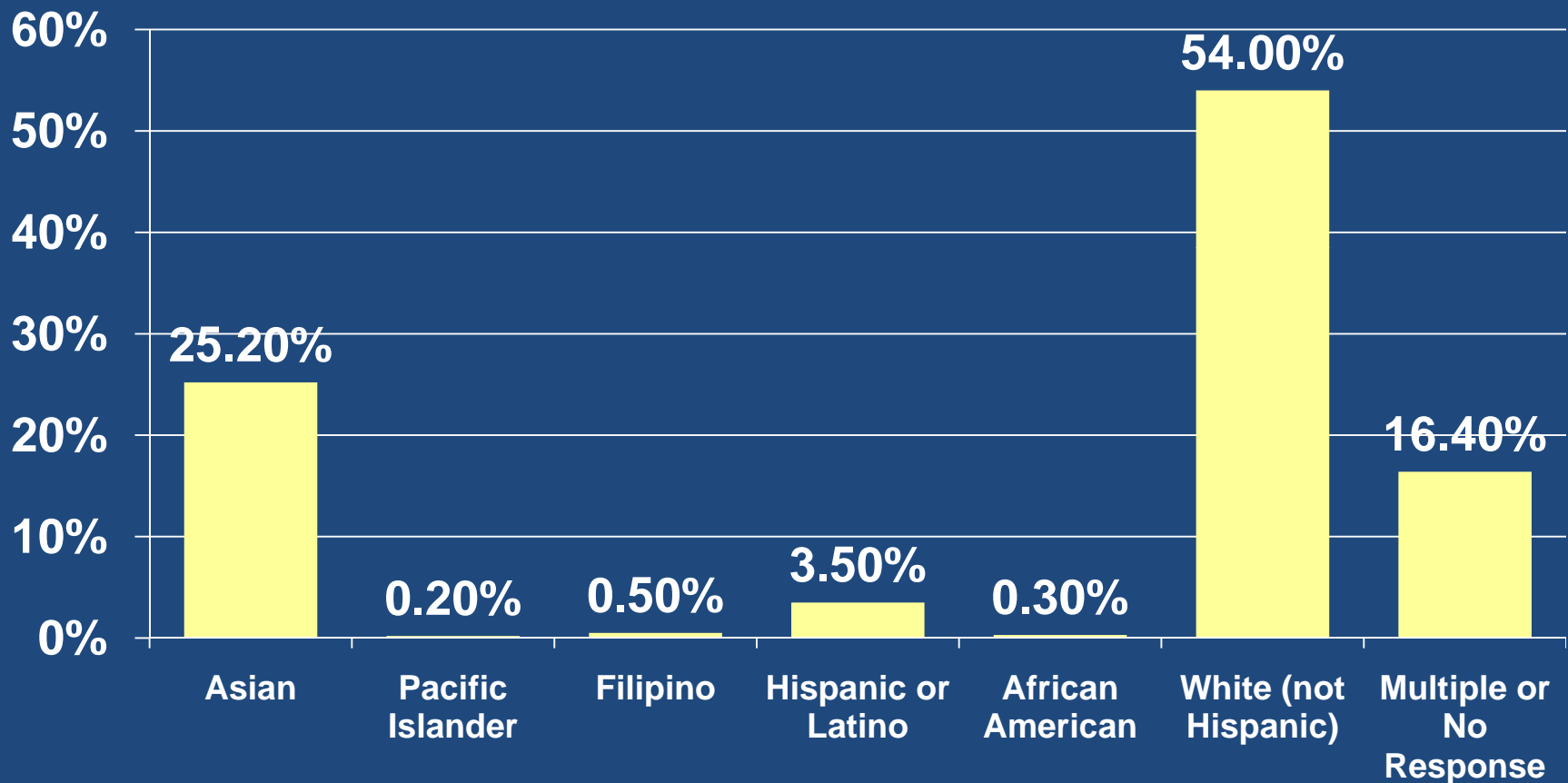
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**Jeff Baier**  
**Assistant Superintendent**  
**Los Altos School District, CA**

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**Los Altos School District, CA**

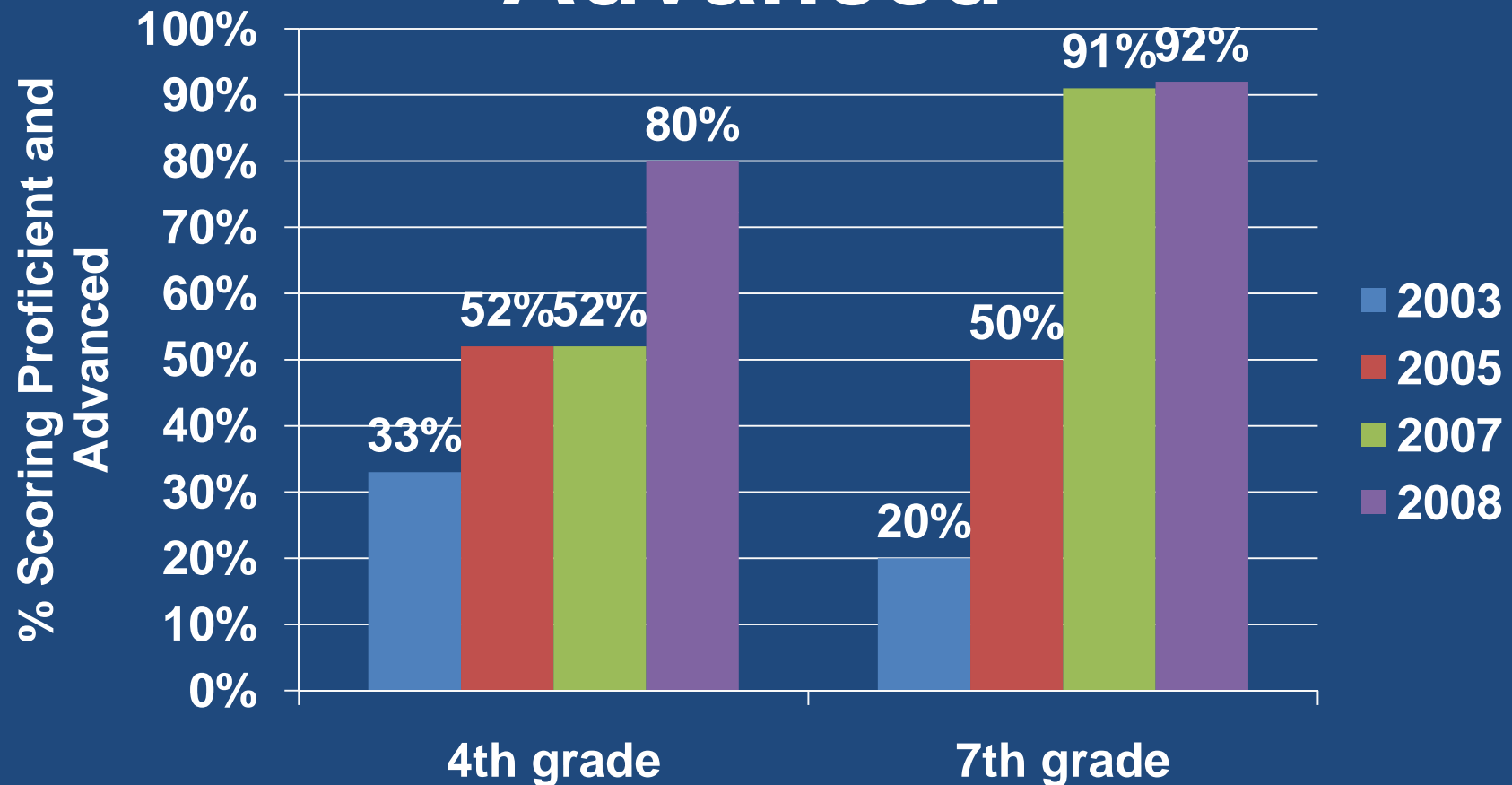
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# Los Altos School District Ethnicity Statistics



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# Los Altos School District % Scoring Proficient and Advanced



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# Los Altos 3-Year Implementation Plan

## Year 1-Grade Level Workshops

- Basic Training (2 days)
- Expository Writing

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# Los Altos 3-Year Implementation Plan

## Years 2 and 3-Modules

(1 day trainings by grade level)

- Personal Narrative
- Active Reading/Response to Literature
- Persuasive
- Multi-paragraph/Compare-Contrast
- Primary

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# Los Altos 3-Year Implementation Plan

In addition to teacher training...

- Parent Sessions
  - Day and evening
  - 1-hour overview

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# Los Altos 3-Year Implementation Plan

**In addition to teacher training...**

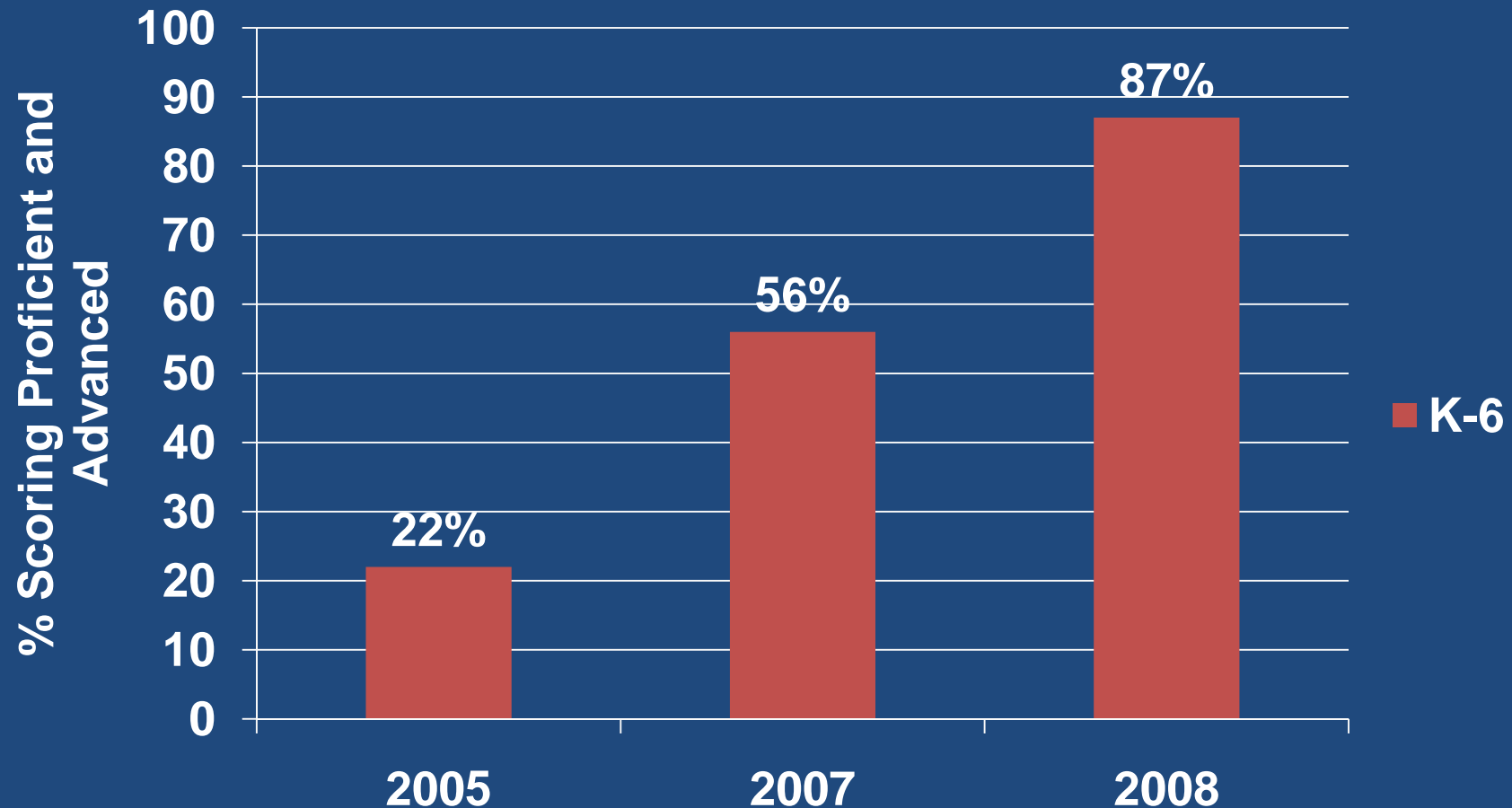
- **Coaching – Santa Rita Elementary**
- **Year 1 – Intensive**
  - **Grade level meetings**
  - **Demo lessons**
  - **Teacher-led lessons**
  - **Dialogue sessions after lessons**
- **Year 2 – Checking in**

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# Oak Elementary School

Los Altos, CA

## Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

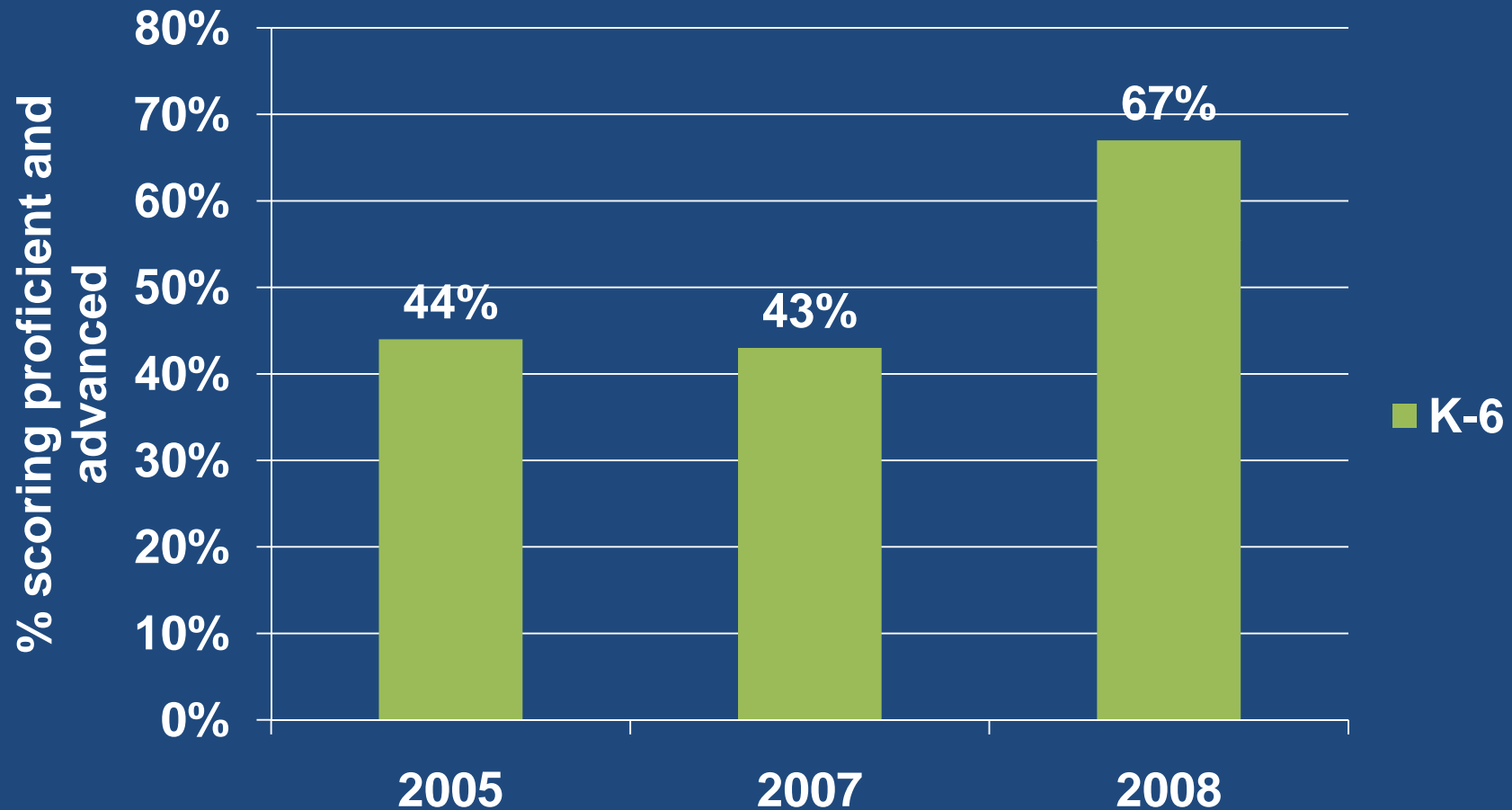


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# Almond Elementary School

Los Altos, CA

## Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

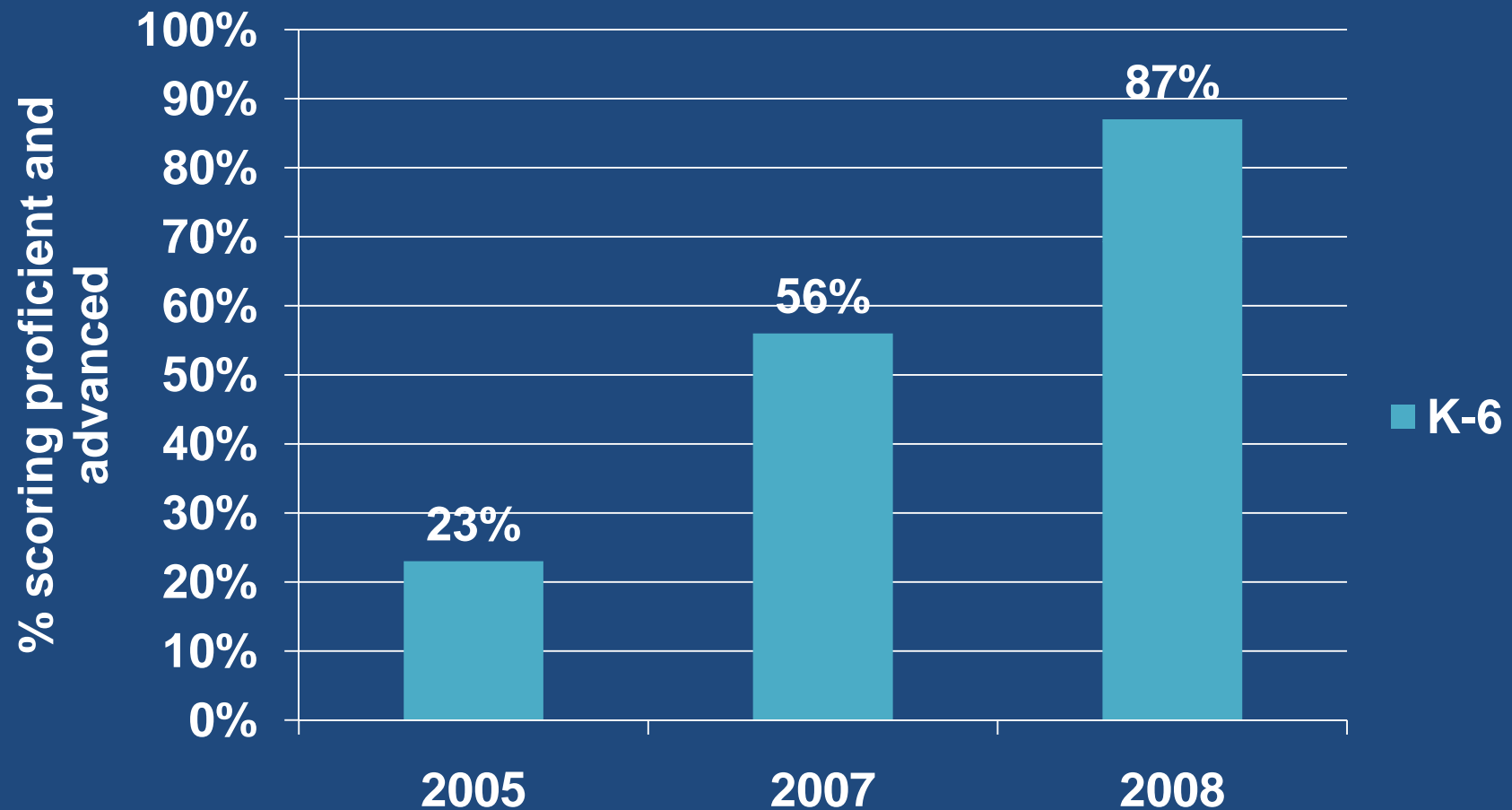


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# Loyola Elementary School

Los Altos, CA

## Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

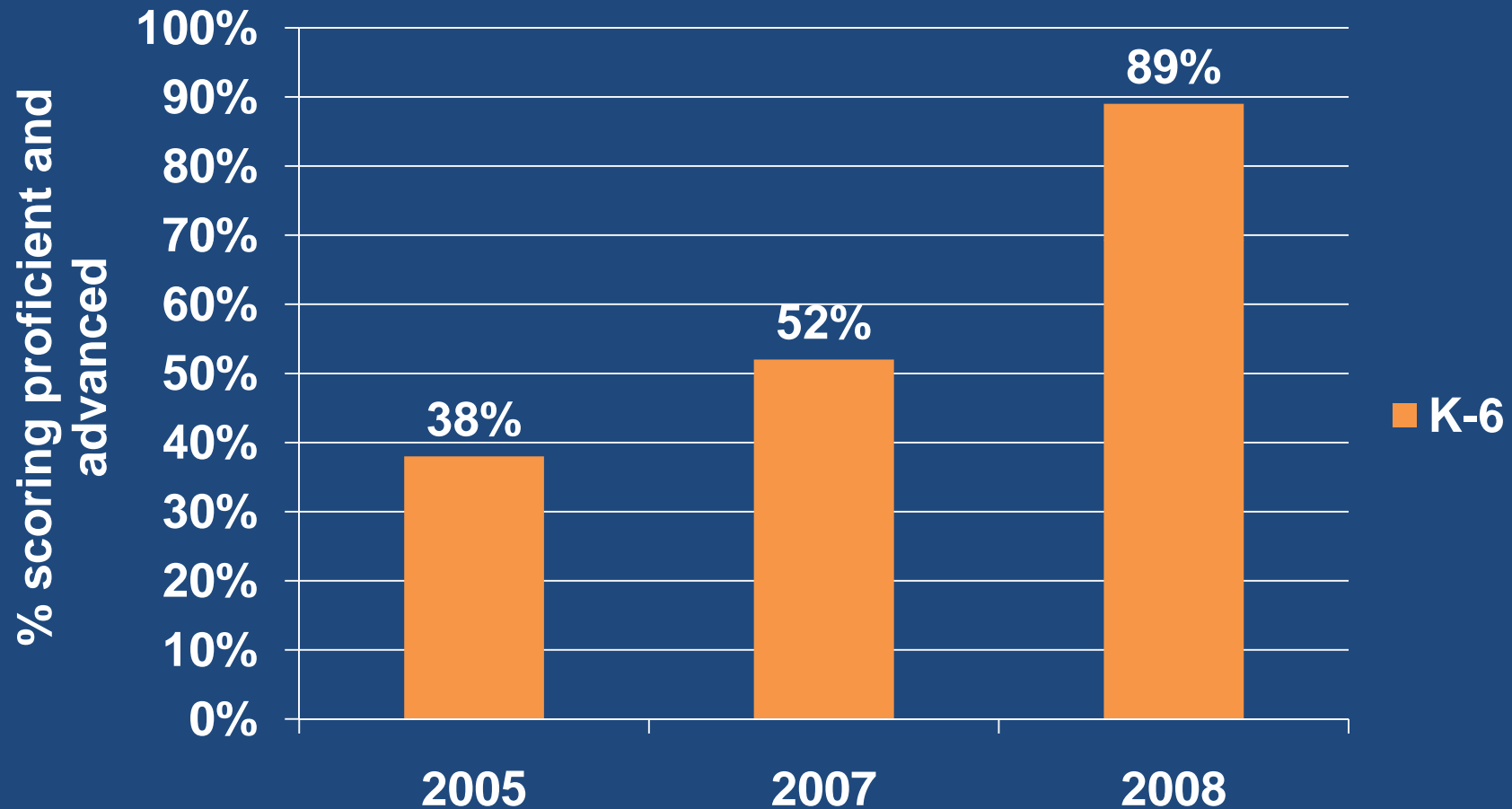


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# Covington Elementary School

Los Altos, CA

## Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

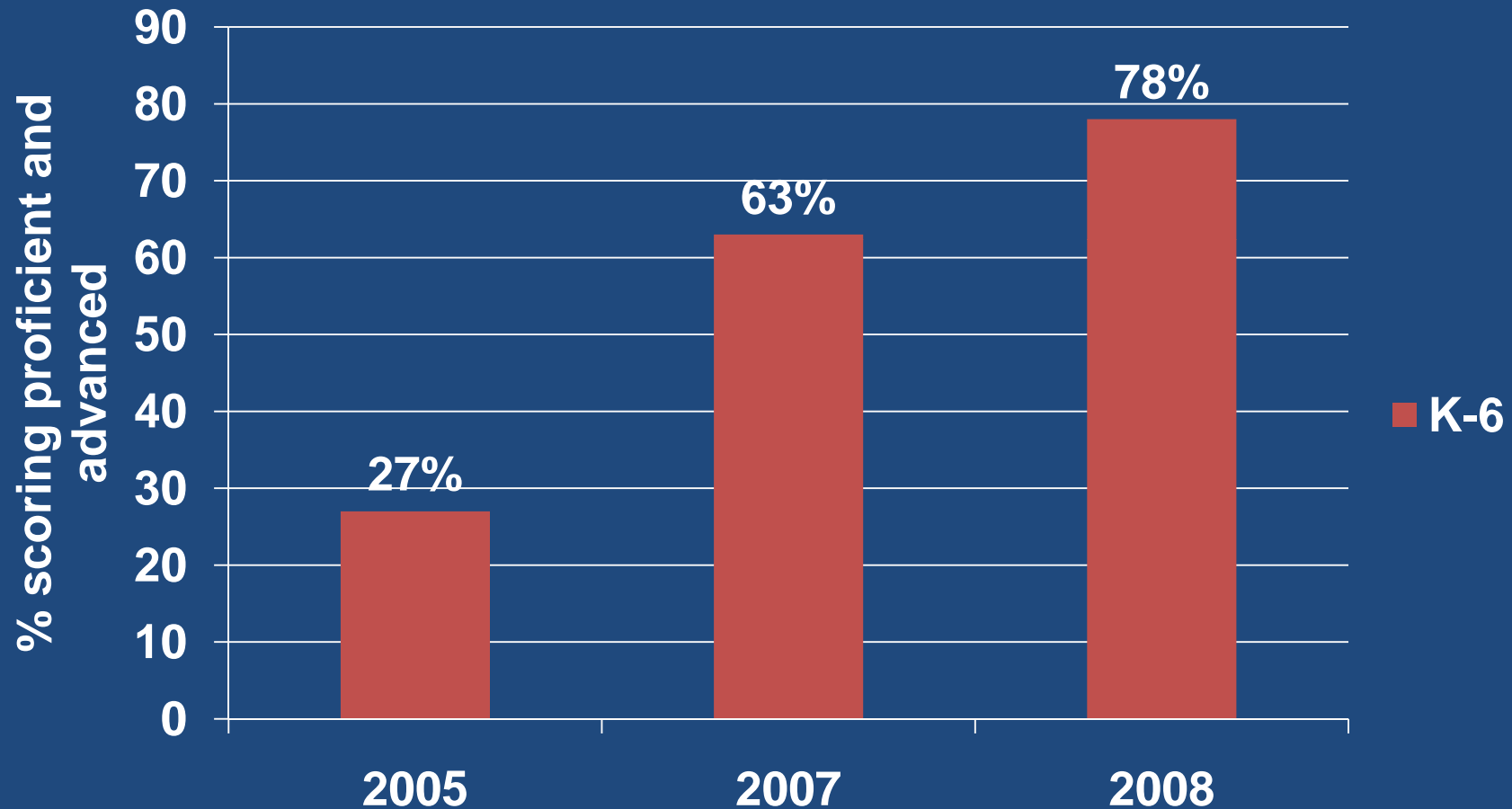


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# Santa Rita Elementary School

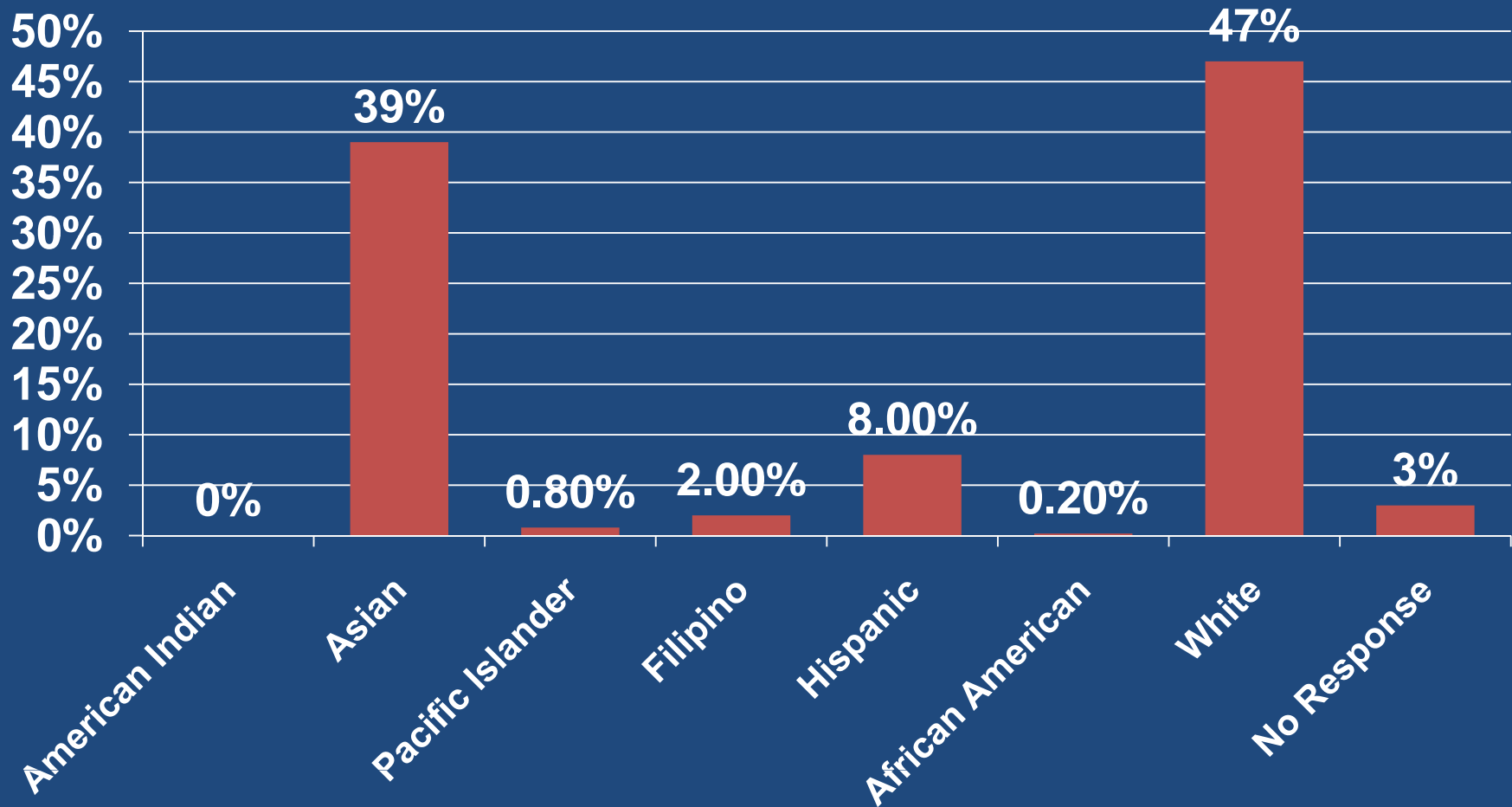
Los Altos, CA

## Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced



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# Santa Rita Elementary School Los Altos, CA Ethnic/Racial Subgroup Information

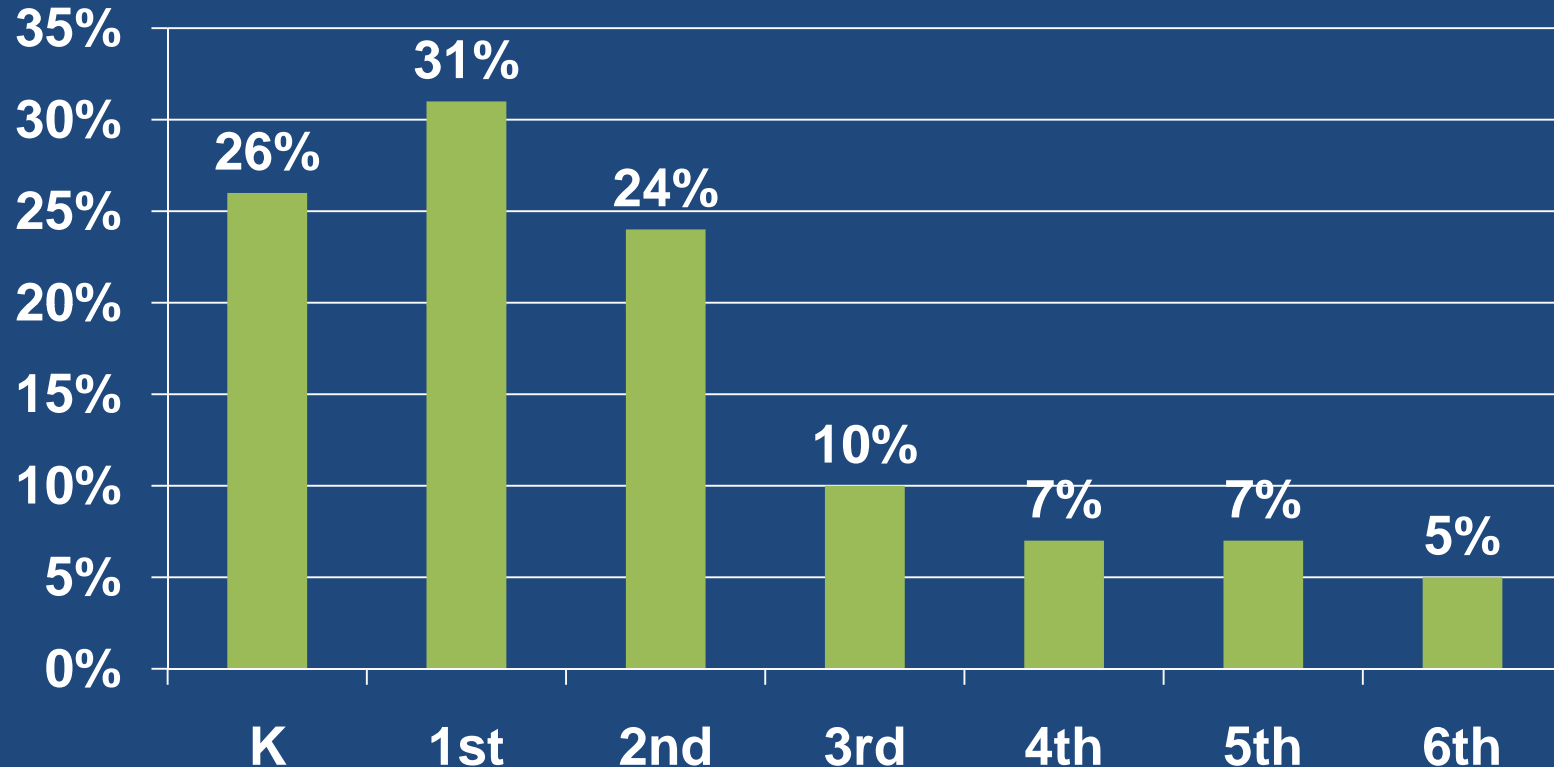


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# Santa Rita Elementary School

## Los Altos, CA

### English Language Learners by Grade



- English Language Learners represent 15% of the total school population
- 7% of the student population are on free and reduced lunch.

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**Director, K-12 Literacy**  
**Curriculum and Professional Development**  
**Division**  
**Clark County School District, Nevada**

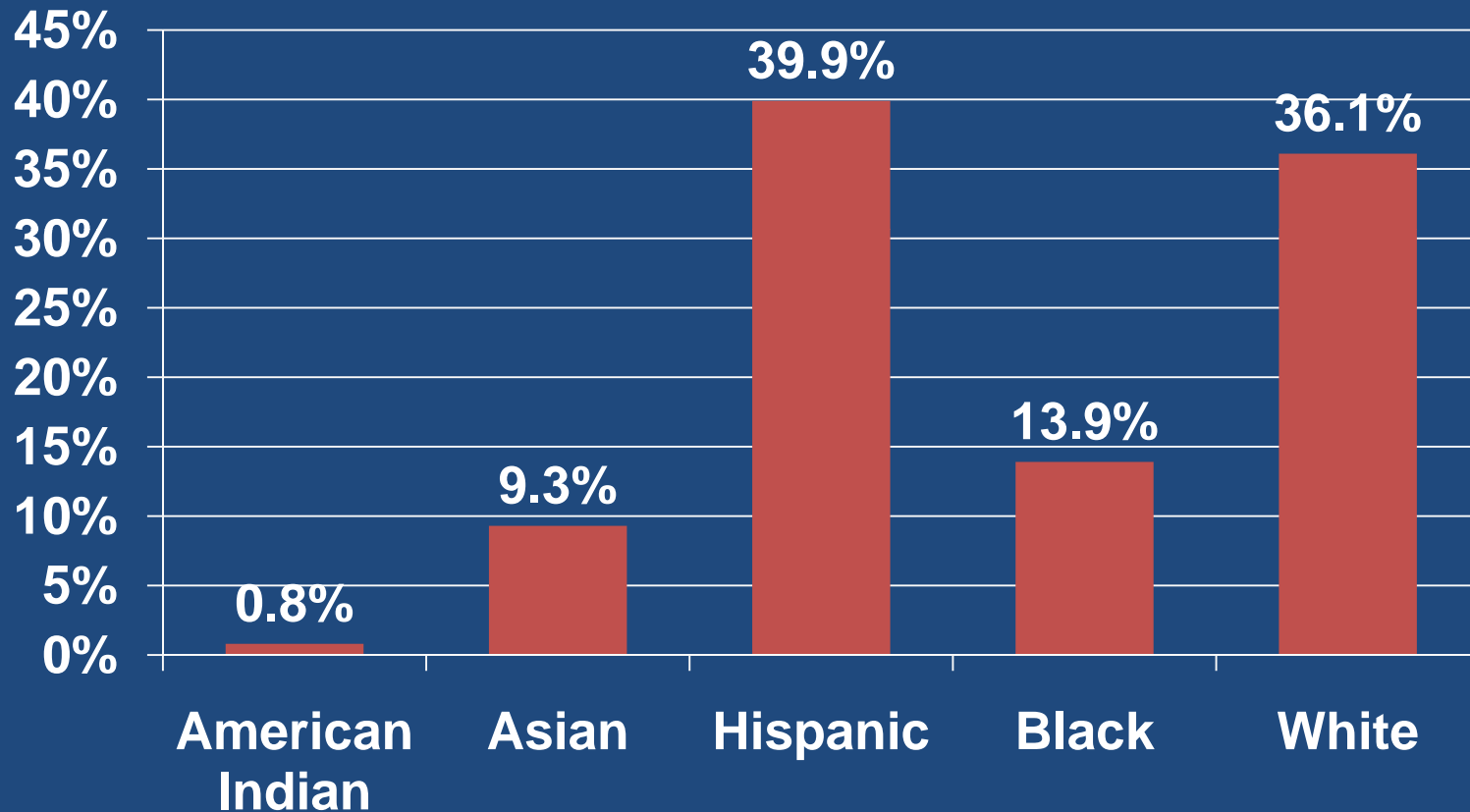
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**Coordinator, Literacy Services**  
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# Clark County School District Student Demographics

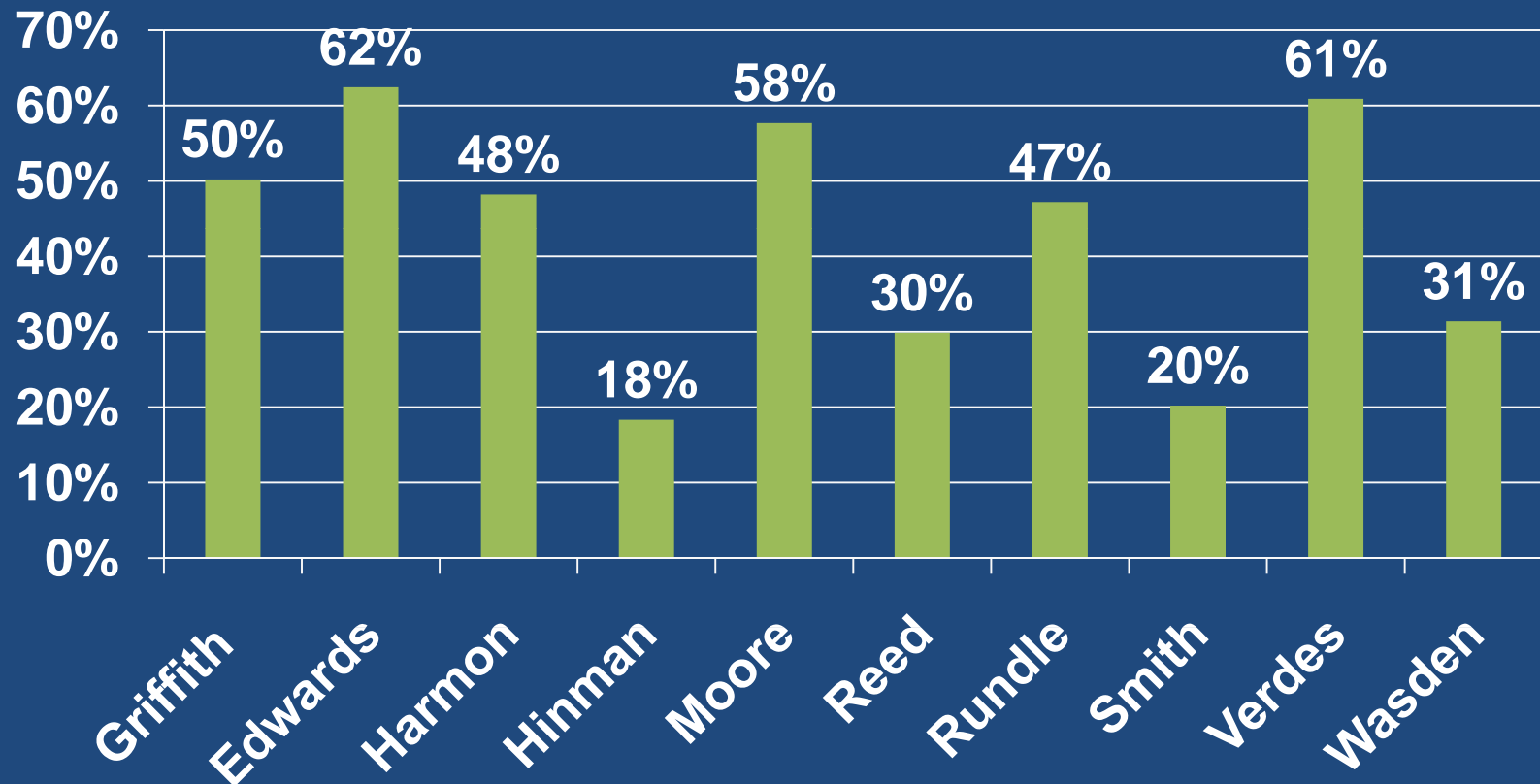
Clark County, NV

2008



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# Clark County School District- Reading First Elementary Schools, Clark County, NV Percent of Students Who Are Limited English Proficient



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# Clark County Training Model

Seven cadres of K-3 teachers  
Reading First Schools

2 days of training



Time to practice



2 more days of training

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# FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

## Common Strategies

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# FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

**Common Strategies**

**Common Language**

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# FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

**Common Strategies**

**Common Language**

**Common Vision**

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# FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

**Common Strategies**

**Common Language**

**Common Vision**

**Explicit, Systematic Instruction**

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# FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

**Common Strategies**

**Common Language**

**Common Vision**

**Explicit, Systematic Instruction**

**+ On-site Coaching**

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# FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

**Common Strategies**

**Common Language**

**Common Vision**

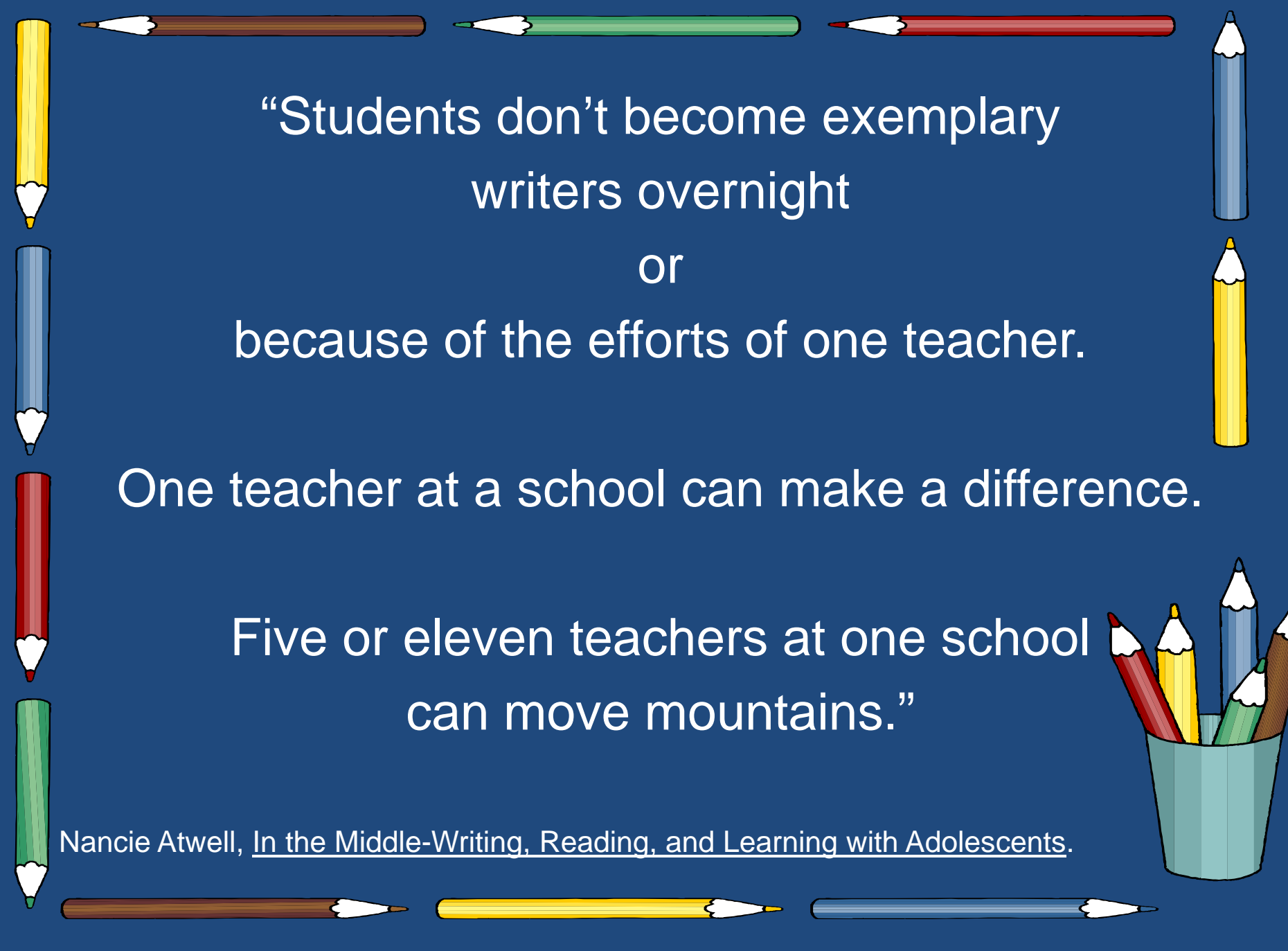
**Explicit, Systematic Instruction**

**+ On-site Coaching**

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**= SUCCESS**

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“Students don’t become exemplary  
writers overnight

or

because of the efforts of one teacher.

One teacher at a school can make a difference.

Five or eleven teachers at one school  
can move mountains.”

Nancie Atwell, [In the Middle-Writing, Reading, and Learning with Adolescents.](#)

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