

# PEORIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS staff news weekly

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## Overall: More Positive Gains on AYP

In its sixth consecutive year of No Child Left Behind, Peoria Public Schools overall, continue to make gains, but not enough to hit the moving target. That target was set for 2009 at 70%, with participation rate, graduation rate and attendance rate also

factors in measuring AYP. As has been the case since its inception, Safe Harbor and 95% Confidence Interval are alternate ways schools can meet AYP outside of the hard percentage target. While three schools that

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### Redefining Teaching & Learning

#### Harrison Primary Credits Interventions and Programs for Double-Digit Gains

Harrison Primary School has consistently shown gains in reading since 2005, but 2009 boosted its percentage for students meeting/exceeding by more than the other years combined. While the school's mathematics score has been somewhat stagnant over the same five years, it too received quite a boost in 2009. Harrison saw a 22.6% increase in reading and a 15.3% increase in math.

Teachers and the school's principal say the schools programs and interventions are finally paying dividends. Principal VeraLee Smith says Reading First, now in its fourth year, has played a big role.

"Reading First has allowed us to get together, talk about our students and analyze data in a way that we are able to build a plan for each student that meets their needs," says Smith.

Third grade teacher, Judy Barrick agrees. She says the interventions she and other teachers can provide students through the help of Reading Coach Mindy Garrison has become a huge asset to the school. Garrison says RTI (Response to Interventions) has provided the means to connect to each student.

"We are able to work together to put a plan and interventions in place and build a foundation by meeting each student at their own level," says Garrison.

"Research shows that it takes three to five years before you start to see growth following a change," Smith says. After three years of RTI and Reading First, we have begun to see that growth.

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School	Reading			Mathematics		
	2008	Change	2009	2008	Change	2009
Charter Oak Primary	85.5	5.7	91.2	94.4	3.2	97.6
Franklin-Edison Primary	74.3	-10.4	63.9	93.8	-7.5	86.3
Garfield primary	52.2	-6.3	45.9	62.9	-5.8	57.1
Glen Oak Primary	38.4	-2.0	36.4	56.6	-3.3	53.3
Harrison Primary	39.4	22.6	62.0	60.6	15.3	75.9
Hines Primary	74.7	6.3	81.0	83.3	7.2	90.5
Irving Primary	46.8	0.5	47.3	68.5	11.5	80.0
Thomas Jefferson Primary	80.2	-15.2	65.0	87.1	-10.7	76.4
Kellar Primary	86.6	1.3	87.9	98.5	-3.0	95.5
Kingman Primary	47.3	5.4	52.7	68.5	7.8	76.3
Northmoor-Edison Primary	83.6	3.4	87.0	94.3	-1.1	93.2
Tyng Primary	25.0	3.9	28.9	36.0	11.3	47.3
Whittier Primary	83.6	-2.2	81.4	88.8	-0.3	88.5
Woodrow Wilson Primary	71.8	4.7	76.5	88.2	3.0	91.2
Mark Bills Middle	70.2	7.4	77.6	76.8	-0.8	76.0
Columbia Middle	70.5	-6.0	64.5	87.7	-7.9	79.8
Calvin Coolidge Middle	66.7	3.5	70.2	68.2	5.0	73.2
Lincoln Middle	48.2	-3.2	45.0	53.7	-3.8	49.9
Lindbergh Middle	92.5	-6.4	86.1	96.1	-5.6	90.5
Loucks-Edison Jr. Academy	54.3	0.0	54.3	64.5	0.0	64.5
Rolling Acres-Edison Jr. Academy	85.9	-7.2	78.7	83.7	1.4	85.1
Roosevelt Magnet	77.9	2.2	80.1	84.6	0.0	84.6
Sterling Middle	55.7	0.4	56.1	52.3	11.4	63.7
Trewyn Middle	46.0	-1.6	44.4	46.0	1.4	47.4
Von Steuben Middle	79.8	-0.1	79.7	74.6	9.3	83.9
Washington Middle	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Manual High School	15.3	1.7	17.0	10.7	-1.1	9.6
Peoria High School	30.9	-1.0	29.9	24.0	-4.3	19.7
Richwoods High School	64.6	1.2	65.8	60.4	4.2	64.6
Woodruff High School	21.1	1.8	22.9	14.8	3.3	18.1
District #150	61.7	1.1	62.8	67.1	2.8	69.9

## Former Greeley Classroom Assistant "Grown" into New Role at New School

As participants of the Peoria Grow Your Own program begin their third year, the first graduate of the state funded program is carrying out its mission within a Glen Oak classroom. Lydia Branch has advanced her third career after 27 years of taking classes, two associates degrees and twelve years in the classroom as an assistant. She most recently served as a paraprofessional

at Greeley Alternative School and worked in both respiratory therapy and banking/finance before she started at Peoria Public Schools about twelve years ago. As a new special education teacher, Branch shares a fifth grade inclusion classroom with regular division teacher, Brett Steffen. She says she is finally living out her dream that started in

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*-Positive Gains, continued from front page*  
met or exceeded AYP last year fell from that status this year, and no new schools met AYP, gains were seen in more schools than not. In fact, increases were seen in six of eight subgroups in both reading and math. Seven of eight subgroups are not making AYP in mathematics, while three of eight are making AYP in reading. Significant gains were seen at the primary level by Charter Oak, Harrison, Hines Kingman and Whittier in reading. Harrison, Hines, Irving, Kingman and Tyng saw significant gains in Mathematics. At the middle school level, Mark Bills improved significantly in reading, while Calvin Coolidge, Sterling and Von Steuben saw significant gains in Mathematics. Overall, the district improved

by more than a percentage point in reading and by two percentage points in math, bringing mathematics only one tenth of a percentage from meeting AYP. Nearly all schools met attendance and all high schools met the required graduation rate. Still, approximately only a third of Peoria Public Schools are meeting or exceeding AYP (10 of 29). In 2010, the moving target for AYP will reach 77.5%. Five more years remain of NCLB before the target reaches 100% in 2014. The year prior, the target stays flat at 92.5% for a second year.

All results from the most recent (2009) ISAT test will be posted to the state report card on November 1. You can view previous years' reports at <http://iirc.niu.edu/>

*-Harrison, continued from front page*  
Another change Smith attributes to her school's results is the way the school used Extended Day money last year. Instead of offering after-school programs to all students, which was seeing dwindling attendance, last year the school worked to build a schedule that allowed fourth and fifth grade students to be pulled out of the classroom for individual help in areas where interventions were believed to be needed. Smith is hoping the budget will again be approved so the program can continue in the same fashion for a second year.

Finally, Smith says consistency has been another key factor.

"We have had a few good years of consistency in staff, programs and structure. Hopefully we can continue with that," Smith says.

*-Grown, continued from front page*  
third grade.

Branch was one of 40 participants that started with Peoria Grow Your Own in its inaugural year, fall of 2007. The participants started the program holding jobs as bus drivers, paraprofessionals or non-certified teachers from other agencies. The state grant was written to address a then-shortage of special education and early childhood education teachers within the district. Peoria's program is one of 16 throughout the state. The program has not accepted any new applicants since its first year and program coordinator Ruthie Hamer says she hopes to help get current participants through school and into jobs before reevaluating needs and seeing if the state will continue to provide additional funding. That could take a while. The original grant was expected to last six to seven years so that all students could finish school. However, when they first began, just more than half of the participants had some college credit under their belts. Sixteen students began their college careers under the program at ICC. Students then continue with classes at Bradley University. With the program only paying for two classes each semester, including books, fees and tuition, Hamer projects it could take through 2018 for the remaining participants to complete their degree.

With many years of classes under her belt, it only took Branch two years to finish her degree under the program at BU. While she hoped to finish sooner, she says she is excited to finally be teaching. She has two children, a son and daughter, who both are graduates of Peoria Public Schools. Her daughter is in her senior year at Bradley,

earning a degree in Math Education, with a middle school endorsement.

"My husband and I set up an education fund for our children, but not for me," Branch says laughing. "So guess what? Mom is the one stuck with student loans after all of these years and my daughter graduates scott free."

Peoria Grow Your Own paid for Branch's costs under the program while she was a participant; and as long as she continues teaching within the state, preferably within the district, her commitment will be met. As the programs first graduate, she will serve as an advisor to remaining students. Students also get extra resources and help through the program's six partners, including tutoring help from Urban League and mentoring from PCCEO.



*Lydia Branch, the first graduate of Peoria Grow Your Own, checks a student's homework list to take home prior to dismissal in her 5th Grade Glen Oak Inclusion classroom.*

### New Adopt-A-School Partners

Congratulations to all parties of these new Adopt-A-School partnerships:

- Concerned African American Retirees and Manual Middle and High School
- First United Methodist Church and Peoria Alternative High School
- Society of Women Engineers and Lindbergh Middle School
- Illinois Mutual and Woodrow Wilson Primary School

Call Cindy Morris at 672-6781 if you are interested in forming a new partnership!

### Technically...Tuesdays!

The Peoria Public Schools Data Team is hoping you will consider taking part in Technically...Tuesdays.

- A different topic will be discussed each month and will address technology, data and CSSS components
- Sessions will take place on one or two Tuesdays each month, with staggered times to accommodate different bell schedules
- Locations will alternate among high school regions
- Casual atmosphere will allow for Q & A time

Look for upcoming topics and dates to be announced in Staff News Weekly and on the Teaching & Learning Department's PD calendar!