

Science Daybooks
**Program Effectiveness:
Natchitoches, LA
2004-2006**



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**Science Daybooks Effectiveness Evaluation Study
N.S.U. Elementary Lab School, Natchitoches, LA**

N.S.U. Elementary Lab School used *Science Daybooks* for fourth grade during the 2004-2005 and the 2005-2006 school years. *Science Daybooks* are unique in that they bring together science, reading, and writing. They are designed to help students investigate, learn, and apply essential life, earth, and physical science concepts through meaningful activities that connect science to the real world.

The state of Louisiana annually issues a grade four standardized test, the LEAP Science test, to assess student progress. The results of this assessment are used in this evaluation to examine the effectiveness of the *Science Daybooks*.

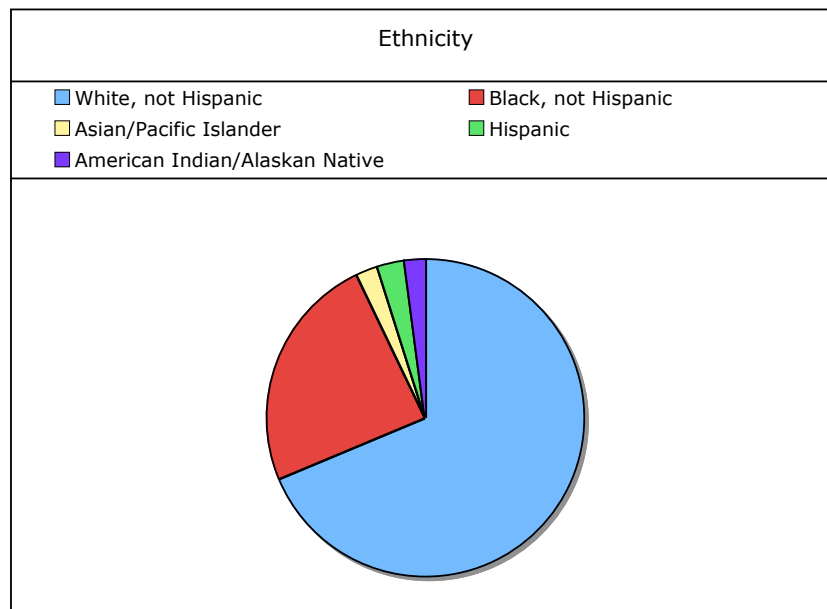
District Demographics

N.S.U. Elementary Lab School, located in Natchitoches, Louisiana, has 23% of students eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch program and less than 1% migrant students.

Median Household Income: \$43,586

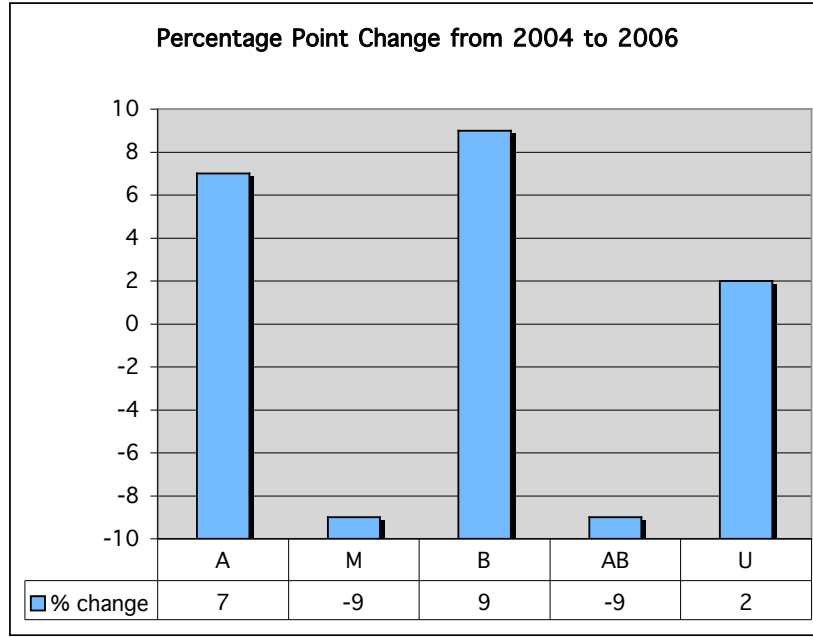
Median Home Value: \$62,261

Ethnicity: White 68.5%, Black 24.3%, Hispanic 2.8%, Asian/Pacific Islander 2.2%, American Indian/Alaska Native 2.2%

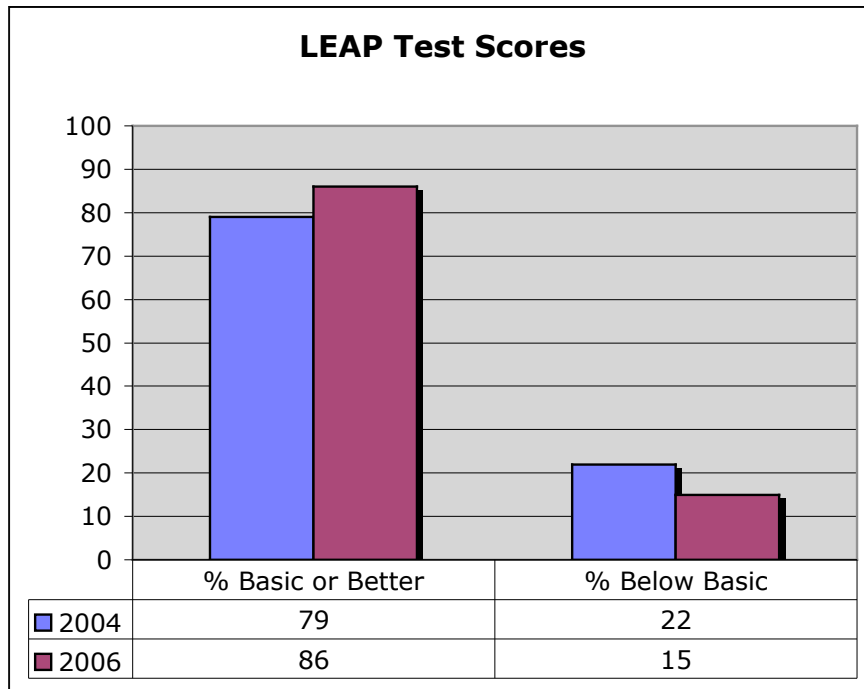


Results

The LEAP Science test scores fall into five categories: Advanced (A), Mastery (M), Basic (B), Approaching Basic (AB), and Unsatisfactory (U). The percentage point change in these categories from 2004 to 2006 is indicated in the following graph.



Results show significant increases in the number of students who scored Basic or better from 2004 to 2006. Scores in the Basic or better range increased by 7 percentage points from 2004 to 2006 at N.S.U. Elementary Lab School while scores below basic decreased by 7%.



Principal Melanie McCain commented, “Students’ growth in the strand of inquiry has improved tremendously. At the 4th grade, the inquiry strand is the power standard, because it creates the habit of mind to do all other science strands.”

Conclusion

The success of *Science Daybooks* can be linked to several factors. However, the Principal of N.S.U. Elementary Lab School believes, “the program’s reading and writing aspect and very interesting content are its strength; students were therefore engaged, which accounts for a tremendous part of their success.”