

### Third grade reading CSAP scores above state average

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

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Holyoke's 2010 third grade reading score of 80 percent proficient and advanced is the highest in this district in seven years. It is also 10 percentage points higher than the state average of 70 in the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP).

"We are delighted to be 10 percent higher than the state," said Holyoke school district assessment coordinator Kimberlee Bennett at the May 18 School Board meeting.

Three students scored advanced in the testing, including one Lectura (Spanish version of reading).

Bennett also touted the fact there were no unsatisfactory scores by Holyoke students in the third grade reading CSAP testing this year. This marks a first for the district in the 13-year history of CSAP testing.

Bennett provided a deeper look at the demographic data, as well as highlights and areas of further study.

She praised the Alpine Achievement Data program which assists the district in assessing the results and determining what is needed by individual students and classes.

Trends cited in the testing data noted hispanic/white achievement gaps are considerable and require attention. It was also noted the district is headed in the right direction with this.

It was emphasized the district is excited to start effective co-teaching to close the ethnic gap.

Multi-cultural achievement strategies are in the plans for implementation, Bennett reported.

Teachers are working on individual academic improvement plans based on data need for their grade level and department.

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Additionally, the district leadership team will continue to look for common needs to organize specific professional development for staff.

Bennett reported the elementary staff shares good practices with each other. There is also improvement within the district on having data dialog on a continual basis.

Supt. Bret Miles added the district will be leaning hard on growth data for students, as opposed to status data.