

Reading TCAPs exceed state average

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

For the fifth straight year, Holyoke third-grade reading scores on the Transitional Colorado Assessment Program exceeded the state average.

TCAP results released last week showed 79 percent of Holyoke students scored proficient or advanced while the state average for this year is 73 percent.

Holyoke Elementary School Principal Kyle Stumpf congratulated everyone who contributed to these results including classroom teachers, others who support third-grade readers and even the teachers in upper grades who willingly give up intervention time so it can be used with younger students.

Not only did third-grade students do well by exceeding the state average in reading, there were only three students (6 percent) who received an unsatisfactory score, which is less than the 10 percent average unsatisfactory score by the rest of the state.

Stumpf said, "One goal we have as a building is to focus on providing interventions for those who need additional help. I am pleased to see that we are continuing to have a lower unsatisfactory rate than the rest of the state."

Another celebration for the district was the performance of students who are learning English as a second language.

Of the 48 students in third grade, 13 (27 percent) are identified as "Limited English Proficient" for their language proficiency. Of these students, six (46 percent) still scored in the proficient range.

"It is known that students take 5-7 years after a child learns conversational English to develop the academic vocabulary necessary to meet the standards. Therefore, I am very pleased at the progress the third-grade TCAP shows for our ELL students," commented Superintendent Bret Miles, who is very pleased with the results.

Reading TCAPs exceed state average

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

TCAP is the new name for what has been known as CSAP since its inception. The statewide mandatory assessment was renamed this year as the test began to transition into the newly adopted state standards.

The third-grade reading assessment began in 1998. Student results for all TCAP tests are classified into one of four categories: advanced, proficient, partially proficient and unsatisfactory. It is a statewide expectation that proficient scores are deemed to be on grade level or meeting the standards set by the state.

Third-grade reading is tested early so results are available before school ends. All other TCAP test results will be available to districts in late July or early August.

Holyoke School District has set its own targets for student achievement outlined by the Standard of Excellence team and included in the district's strategic plan, Destination 2016. The goals of the district are clear, to have students achieving in the top 25 percent in the state.

This year's third-grade results continue to trend well toward reaching the ultimate goal of over 85 percent proficient and advanced. The district publishes all TCAP results and how they track toward the 2016 goals in its annual report to the community that comes out in August of each year.

"Times are tough in public education. Our state funding per pupil has been reduced 16 percent, more than \$778,000, over the last four years. That has required schools everywhere to do hard work with fewer people and fewer resources. To see our school stay above the state average with fewer teachers is a testament to the focus on achievement and tireless effort of our teachers," said Miles.

"We are very fortunate to have a staff dedicated to increasing achievement regardless of the challenges," he added.

Reading TCAPs exceed state average

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Further questions can be directed to Miles by contacting the Holyoke School District administration office at 854-3634 or by calling Principal Stumpf at 854-3411.

Holyoke Enterprise May 16, 2013