

## Old West End Academy – Profile in Success

**“We believe that we can and will achieve greatness.” Kathy Gregory, former principal of Old West End Academy, Toledo (OH) Public Schools.**

Old West End Academy hasn't been around all that long. Opening for the 2001-2002 school year, OWEA served grades preK through 3. Now serving students through eight grade, OWEA has demonstrated that a dedication to high-quality curriculum, on-going professional development, and rigorous standards can produce dramatic, even breathtaking results. In 2004 (when the first cohort of primary students entered the fourth grade testing year), Old West End Academy began to outperform the rest of Toledo Public Schools on a consistent basis.

### Student Population:

While we understand that any student can learn a tremendous amount given well-designed curriculum, a supportive school structure, and high-quality, well-trained teachers, demographics are still an important consideration when reporting results. This is particularly true when the demographic cards are stacked against a particular school. 96% of OWEA's 204 students are listed as black/non-hispanic while 4% are listed as “unspecified”. 60% of the students qualify for free and/or reduced lunch (compared to the state average of 35%). Given such an economic disparity, one would reasonably assume that a large number of students would qualify for special education services, but only 5% of OWEA's students need that level of assistance (compared to a state average of 14%).

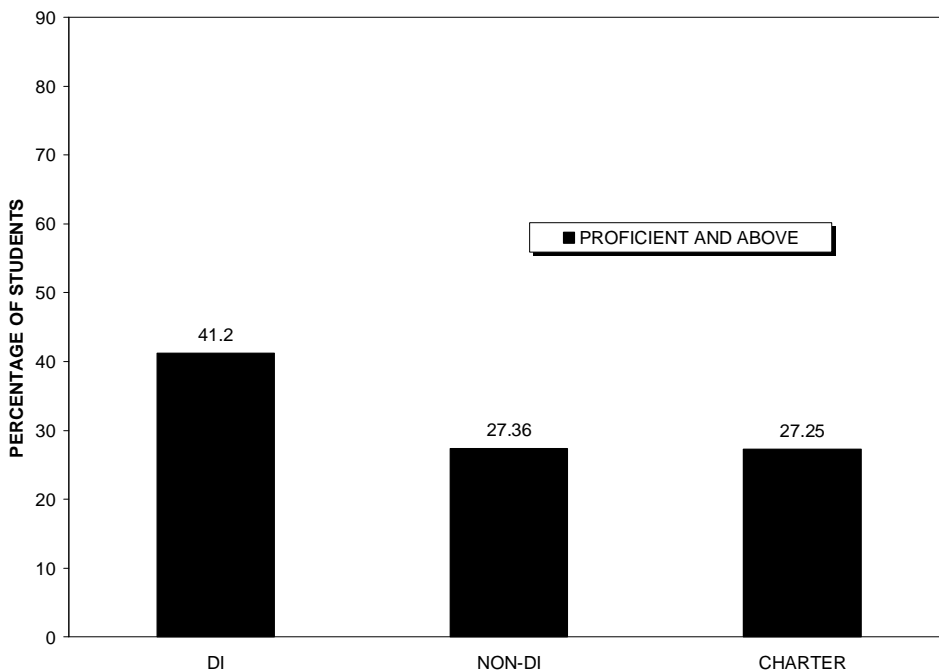
### Curriculum and Results:

Not surprisingly, Direct Instruction plays a central role in the school. Old West End Academy uses Reading Mastery, Reading Mastery Plus, Language for Learning and Thinking, as well as Reasoning and Writing and other Direct Instruction programs.

By faithfully implementing these curricula along with consistent, high-intensity staff development from a private staff development organization, Old West End Academy third graders were able to outperform EVERY other school in the Toledo Public School District on the Ohio Reading Proficiency Test and the Ohio Reading Achievement Test in both 2005 and 2006.

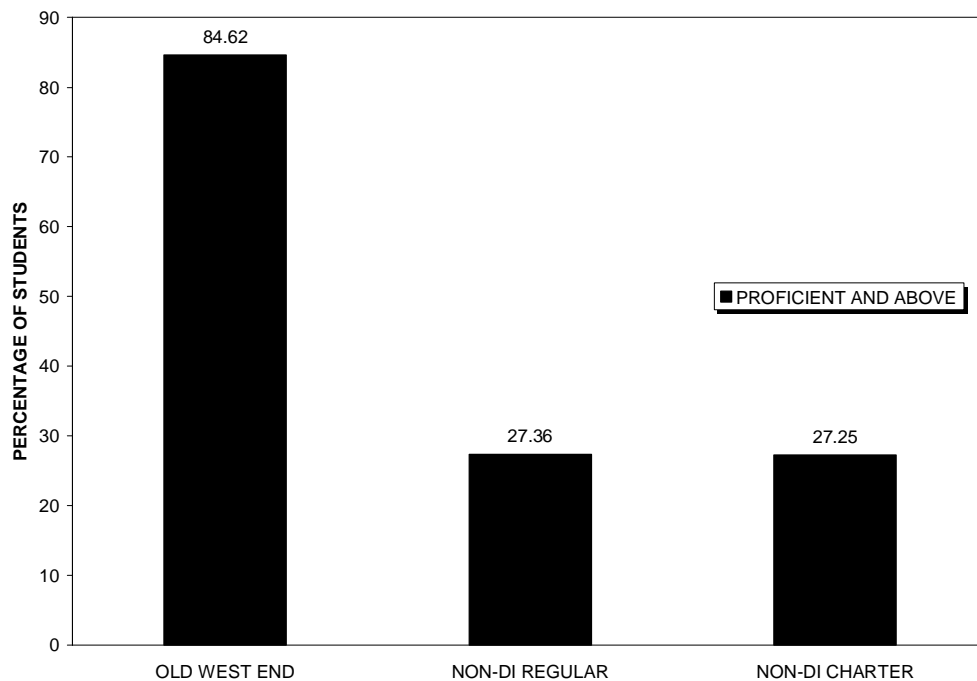
The first graphic below shows the performance of all schools in the Toledo system who implemented the Direct Instruction curricula. It is very important to note that Old West End Academy did not implement DI alone in the district. Several TPS schools used the curricula. On

**TOLEDO CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADE 3 PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE PROFICIENT IN READING ACHIEVEMENT IN DI SCHOOLS COMPARED TO NON-DI AND CHARTER SCHOOLS 2004**



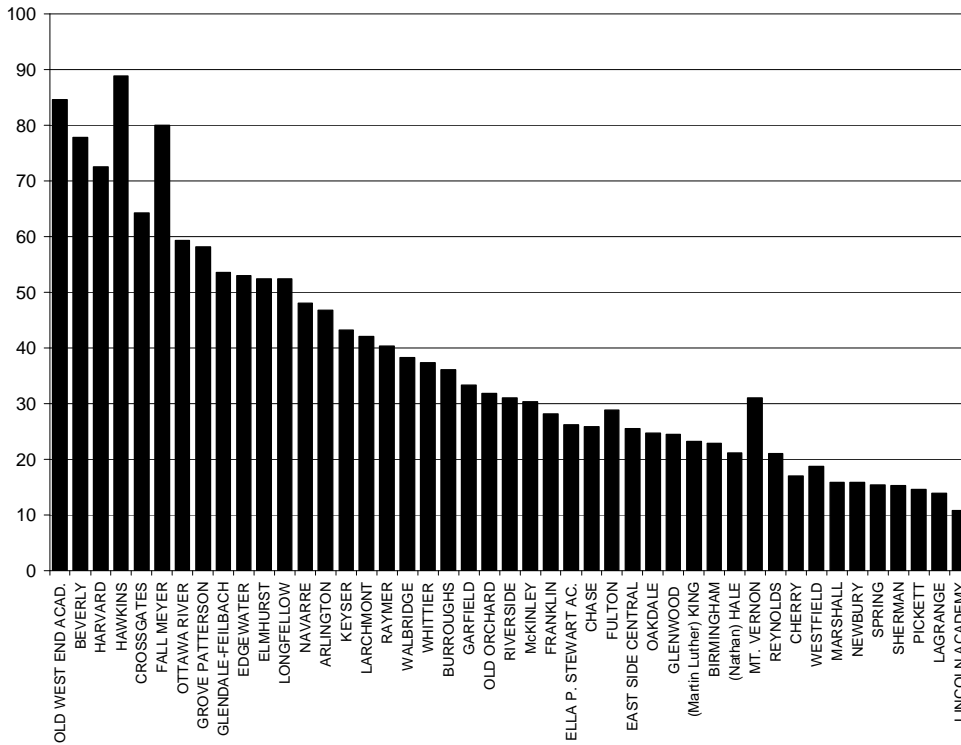
As mentioned prior to the first graph, OWEA was one of several TPS schools implementing Direct Instruction curricula. As the next graph will demonstrate, Old West End's gains were dramatically higher. Of all Toledo Public Schools to implement Direct Instruction at the time of the referenced assessments, only OWEA contracted with an independent professional development organization (JP Associates) to provide initial and ongoing staff development services.

**TOLEDO CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE PROFICIENT IN READING IN OLD WEST END COMPARED TO ALL OTHER TOLEDO SCHOOLS NOT UTILIZING DI INSTRUCTION FOR 2004**

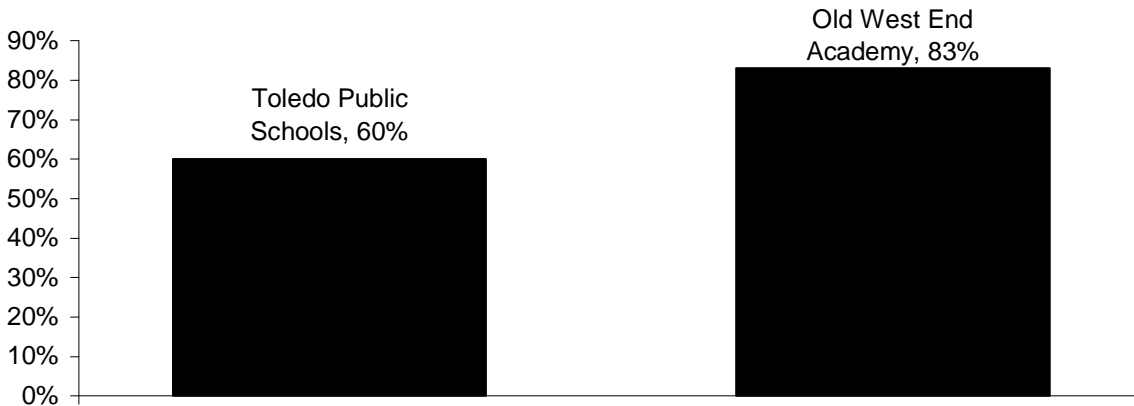


Old West End Academy's high level of performance as not restricted to 2004, however. As the next graph will show, third grade students at OWEA outperformed virtually every school (save one) in the Toledo Public School system the following year (2005).

PERCENTAGE OF TPS THIRD GRADE STUDENTS PASSING OHIO READING ACHIEVEMENT TEST - 2005



In 2006, fourth grade students at Old West End Academy continued to outshine their district peers, even those using identical curricula, on the Ohio Fourth-Grade Proficiency Assessment..



## Parent Involvement

In addition to rigorous curricula and highly efficient use of instructional time, parent involvement is dramatically higher at Old West End Academy than at most other schools in the district. Parents are asked to sign a contract at the beginning of each school year that highlights their commitment to their child's education and commits them to 10 hours of volunteer time in the school. Parents often note that while the expectations and work load are high, the students' performance on assessments make the investment worthwhile.

## Keeping it Up:

Old West End Academy continues to outperform district and state peers, with 91.7% of third graders and 89.3% of fourth graders passing the Ohio Reading Achievement Test. According to Donna DePreist, the School Improvement Specialist from JP Associates who has provided the majority of Direct Instruction staff development, "...the sky is the limit for this school, they're incredibly dedicated to teacher every single student who comes through the door."