

Reed Custer Intermediate School

State Report Card Narrative

In March 2004 the Illinois Standards Achievement Test in Reading, Writing and Math was administered to all third and fifth grade students. Fourth grade students were tested in Science and Social Science. Our students scored above the state average in all areas.

Last year our school improvement team identified writing as an area that required improvement. The staff chose to focus on writing instruction as well as writing performance. During the 2003-04 school year, teachers were trained by Gretchen Courtney Associates to become more effective writing instructors. This process was in three phases: Workshops and Learning Sessions, Classroom Modeling, and Instructional Lesson Planning. We have completed the first two phases and will continue working on Instructional Lesson Planning, which includes developing a writing curriculum and building up resources within our school.

In addition to our focus on writing, our elementary schools recently reviewed and will be purchasing a new reading series. This will begin the process of revising our language arts curriculum, the goal of which is to continue to enhance our reading instruction. Teachers will also work with a consultant in the area of reading instruction.

No Child Left Behind legislation requires schools to show adequate yearly progress. Minimally, schools must have at least 40% of students meeting and exceeding state standards. Again, our students are scoring above this 40% mark. Gains were seen in every area our students were tested, from .5% up to 25.9%! Staff will continue to analyze test scores and explore research based instructional methods to increase student achievement.