

**WHITTIER ELEM SCHOOL  
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DIST 200  
WHEATON, ILLINOIS**



**ILLINOIS  
SCHOOL  
REPORT  
CARD**

**GRADES: K 1 2 3 4 5**

State and federal laws require public school districts to release school report cards to the public each year.

**STUDENTS**

**RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUND AND OTHER INFORMATION**

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Native American	Low- Income Rate	Limited- English- Proficient Rate	High Sch. Dropout Rate	Chronic Truancy Rate	Mobility Rate	Attendance Rate	Total Enrollment
<b>School</b>	87.9	8.0	2.4	1.6	0.2	6.5	0.0		0.2	15.5	96.2	552
<b>District</b>	83.6	5.1	6.5	4.8	0.1	8.4	1.5		0.4	10.0	95.5	14,301
<b>State</b>	59.3	20.8	16.2	3.5	0.2	37.5	6.7		2.0	16.5	94.0	2,029,821

**Low-income** students come from families receiving public aid; live in institutions for neglected or delinquent children; are supported in foster homes with public funds; or are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches.

**Limited-English-proficient** students are those students eligible for transitional bilingual programs.

**Mobility rate** is based on the number of times students enroll in or leave a school during the school year.

**Chronic truants** are students who are absent from school without valid cause for 18 or more of the last 180 school days.

**INSTRUCTIONAL SETTING**

**PARENTAL CONTACT\***

	Percent
<b>School</b>	100.0
<b>District</b>	92.9
<b>State</b>	95.0

**AVERAGE CLASS SIZE** (as of the first school day in May)

	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 3	Grade 6	Grade 8	High School
<b>School</b>	18.3	21.0	21.5			
<b>District</b>	20.1	20.2	21.6			
<b>State</b>	20.5	21.1	22.1			

**STAFF-TO-STUDENT RATIOS**

Pupil- Teacher: Elementary	Pupil- Teacher: Secondary	Pupil- Certified Staff	Pupil- Administrator
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18.0	20.2	13.7	285.4
19.1	18.3	14.0	222.6

\* Parental contact includes parent-teacher conferences, parental visits to school, school visits to home, telephone conversations, and written correspondence.

**TIME DEVOTED TO TEACHING CORE SUBJECTS** (Minutes Per Day)

Grades	Mathematics			Science			English/Language Arts			Social Science		
	3	6	8	3	6	8	3	6	8	3	6	8
<b>School</b>	53			27			145			28		
<b>District</b>	53			27			145			28		
<b>State</b>	56			30			147			31		

**TEACHER INFORMATION** (Full-Time Equivalents)

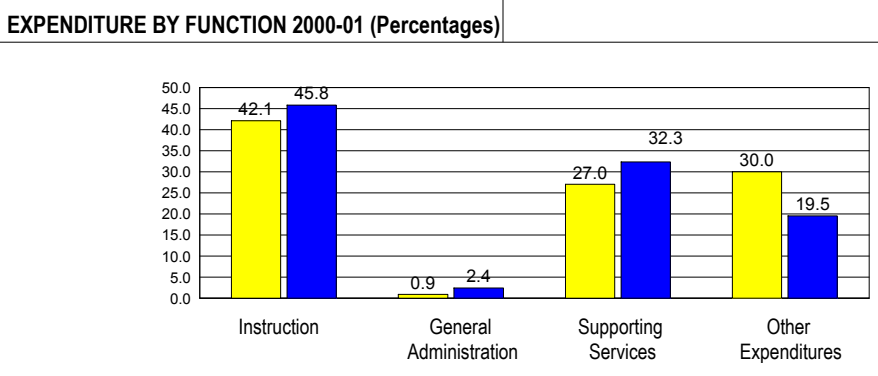
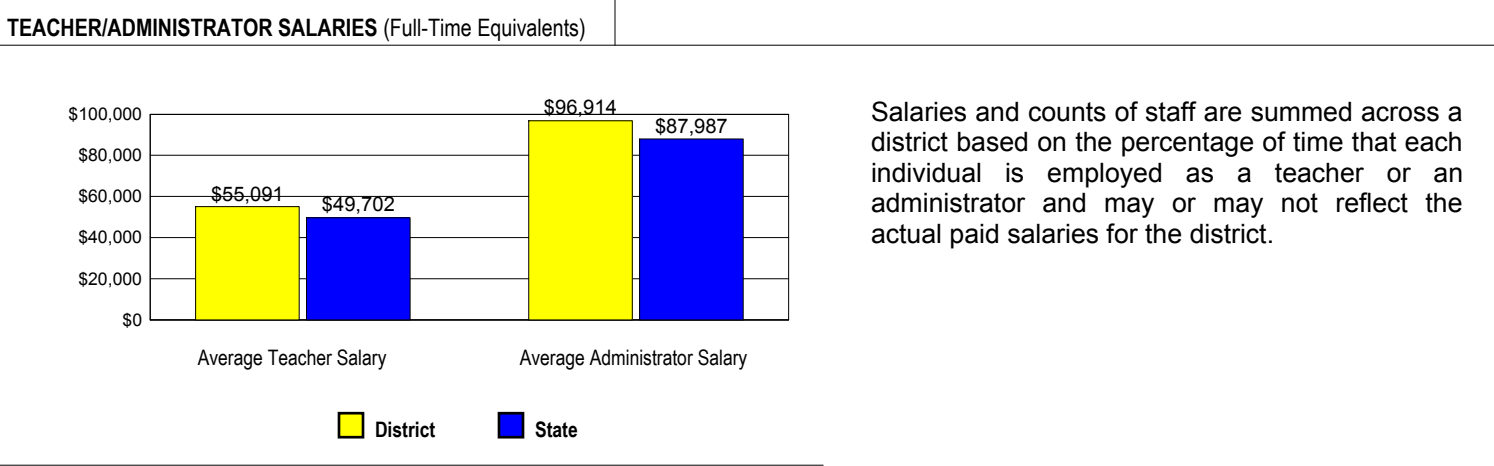
	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Native American	Male	Female	Total Number
<b>District</b>	97.4	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.0	23.2	76.8	898
<b>State</b>	85.0	10.2	3.7	0.9	0.1	23.4	76.6	126,544

TEACHER INFORMATION (Continued)					
	Average Teaching Experience (Years)	% of Teachers with Bachelor's Degrees	% of Teachers with Master's & Above	% of Teachers with Emergency or Provisional Credentials	% of Classes Not Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers *
School	--	--	--	0.0	0.0
District	13.3	41.3	58.6	0.5	0.0
State	14.2	53.9	46.0	2.4	2.3

Most teacher/administrator data are not collected at the school level.

\* Data based on preliminary NCLB definitions.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCES



REVENUE BY SOURCE 2000-01

	District	District %	State %
Local Property Taxes	\$86,052,645	70.3	54.4
Other Local Funding	\$6,997,040	5.7	7.5
General State Aid	\$10,409,892	8.5	17.9
Other State Funding	\$15,084,288	12.3	12.7
Federal Funding	\$3,833,490	3.1	7.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$122,377,355</b>		

EXPENDITURE BY FUND 2000-01

	District	District %	State %
Education	\$86,384,397	60.4	70.0
Operations & Maintenance	\$11,323,945	7.9	9.2
Transportation	\$5,515,250	3.9	3.4
Bond and Interest	\$6,734,615	4.7	5.5
Rent	\$0	0.0	0.0
Municipal Retirement/ Social Security	\$2,381,361	1.7	1.6
Fire Prevention & Safety	\$0	0.0	1.0
Site & Construction/ Capital Improvement	\$30,698,376	21.5	9.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$143,037,944</b>		

**OTHER FINANCIAL INDICATORS**

	1999 Equalized Assessed Valuation per Pupil	1999 Total School Tax Rate per \$100	2000-01 Instructional Expenditure per Pupil	2000-01 Operating Expenditure per Pupil
District	\$134,012	4.74	\$4,616	\$7,782
State	**	**	\$4,667	\$7,926

\*\* Due to the way Illinois school districts are configured, state averages for equalized assessed valuation per pupil and total school tax rate per \$100 are not provided.

**Equalized assessed valuation** includes all computed property values upon which a district's local tax rate is calculated.

**Total school tax rate** is a district's total tax rate as it appears on local property tax bills.

**Instructional expenditure per pupil** includes the direct costs of teaching pupils or the interaction between teachers and pupils.

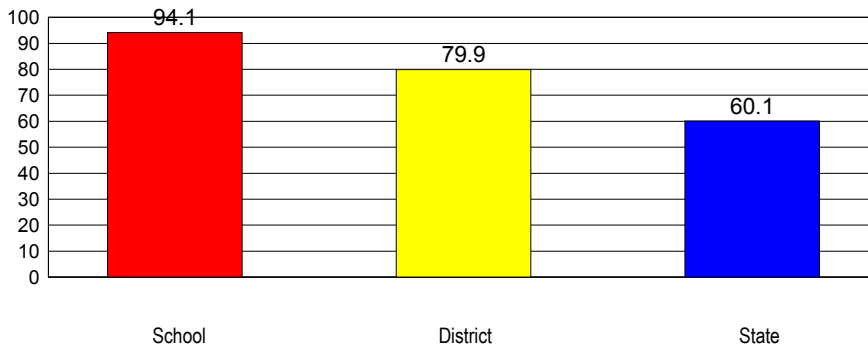
**Operating expenditure per pupil** includes the gross operating cost of a school district excluding summer school, adult education, bond principal retired, and capital expenditures.

**ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

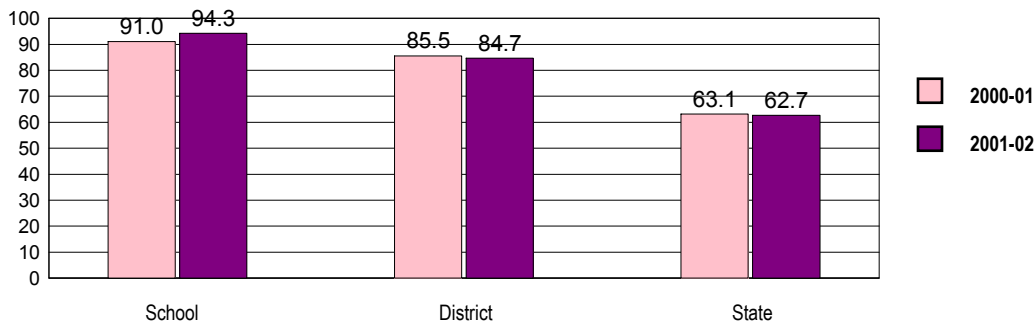
**OVERALL STUDENT PERFORMANCE**

These charts present the overall percentages of state test scores categorized as meeting or exceeding the Illinois Learning Standards for your school, district, and the state. These performance measures include only those test scores for the grades and subjects included in your school.

**2001-02 OVERALL PERFORMANCE - ALL STATE TESTS**



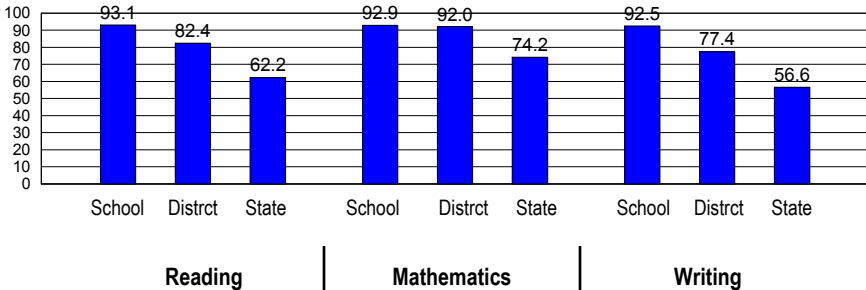
**OVERALL ILLINOIS STANDARDS ACHIEVEMENT TEST (ISAT) PERFORMANCE**



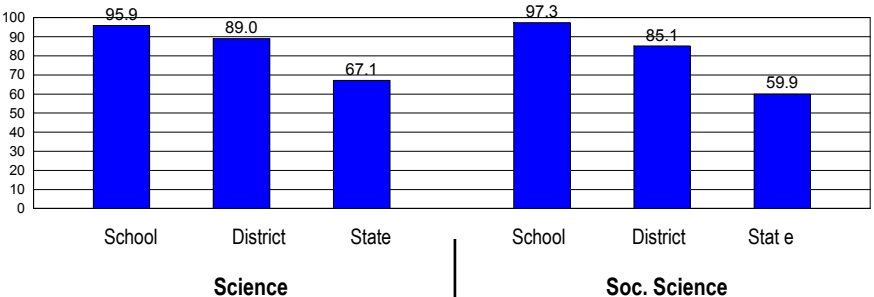
**ISAT PERFORMANCE**

These charts provide information on attainment of the Illinois Learning Standards. They show the percents of student scores meeting or exceeding Standards for the grades and subjects tested on ISAT.

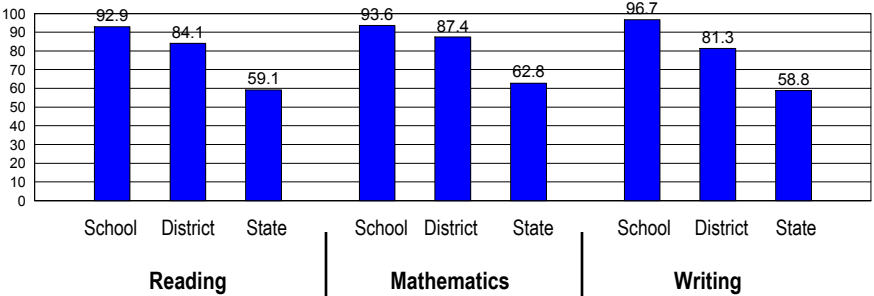
Grade 3



Grade 4



Grade 5



## PERFORMANCE ON STATE ASSESSMENTS

Federal law requires that student achievement results for schools providing Title I services be reported to the general public. Schools with grade 2 as the highest grade in the school use a state-adopted test in reading and mathematics to meet this requirement.

The Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) is administered to students in grades 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8. The Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) is administered to students in grade 11. The Illinois Measure of Annual Growth in English (IMAGE) is administered to students in state-approved transitional bilingual programs. The Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA) is administered to students with disabilities whose Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) indicate that participation in the

Students with disabilities have an IEP or Section 504 Plan. An IEP is a written plan for a child with a disability who is eligible to receive special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. A Section 504 Plan is developed to provide reasonable accommodations for a child who meets the definition of a qualified person with a disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

In order to protect students' identities, test data for groups of fewer than five students are not reported.

### PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS NOT TESTED IN STATE TESTING PROGRAMS

		Gender			Racial/Ethnic Background					LEP	Migrant	Students with Disabilities	Economically Disadvantaged
		All	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian / Pacific Islander	Native American				
School	*Enrollment	212	114	98	190	16	4	2				20	18
	Reading	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0				0.0	11.1
	Mathematics	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0		0.0	5.6
District	*Enrollment	4,430	2,311	2,119	3,748	214	261	203				578	406
	Reading	2.2	2.5	1.9	2.2	8.9	8.4	0.0				5.9	18.5
	Mathematics	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.7	8.9	7.7	0.0		0.0		5.2	19.0
State	*Enrollment	610,328	310,180	300,148	369,979	124,787	92,959	21,444				78,455	226,724
	Reading	2.6	3.0	2.6	4.1	6.8	5.3	3.8				0.9	16.3
	Mathematics	2.4	2.8	2.5	4.0	6.5	5.2	3.7		6.9		0.6	16.3

\* Enrollment on the first day of state testing.

### ILLINOIS STANDARDS ACHIEVEMENT TEST (ISAT)

The following tables show the percentages of student scores in each of four performance levels. These levels were established with the help of Illinois educators who teach the grade levels and learning areas tested. Due to rounding, the sum of the percentages in the four performance levels may not always equal 100.

- Level 1 -- Academic Warning -** Student work demonstrates limited knowledge and skills in the subject. Because of major gaps in learning, students apply knowledge and skills ineffectively.
- Level 2 -- Below Standards -** Student work demonstrates basic knowledge and skills in the subject. However, because of gaps in learning, students apply knowledge and skills in limited ways.
- Level 3 -- Meets Standards -** Student work demonstrates proficient knowledge and skills in the subject. Students effectively apply knowledge and skills to solve problems.
- Level 4 -- Exceeds Standards -** Student work demonstrates advanced knowledge and skills in the subject. Students creatively apply knowledge and skills to solve problems and evaluate the results.

### GRADE 3

All	Levels	Reading				Mathematics				Writing			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	School	0.0	7.0	38.4	54.7	1.2	5.9	23.5	69.4	1.3	6.3	80.0	12.5
	District	1.5	16.0	44.8	37.6	1.0	7.0	37.9	54.1	4.0	18.6	70.6	6.8
	State	6.8	31.0	43.6	18.6	7.2	18.6	43.9	30.3	9.0	34.3	53.6	3.0

Gender		Reading				Mathematics				Writing			
Levels		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Male	School	0.0	8.5	34.0	57.4	0.0	8.5	12.8	78.7	2.2	4.3	80.4	13.0
	District	1.5	20.0	45.5	33.0	1.5	6.7	34.5	57.3	5.8	19.8	69.0	5.4
	State	8.2	32.8	42.5	16.5	7.9	18.0	42.4	31.7	11.9	37.1	49.0	2.1
Female	School	0.0	5.1	43.6	51.3	2.6	2.6	36.8	57.9	0.0	8.8	79.4	11.8
	District	1.5	11.7	44.1	42.7	0.4	7.3	41.6	50.6	2.1	17.3	72.3	8.2
	State	5.2	29.2	44.8	20.9	6.4	19.2	45.5	28.9	6.0	31.5	58.5	4.0

Racial/Ethnic Background		Reading				Mathematics				Writing			
Levels		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
White	School	0.0	2.5	38.0	59.5	1.3	0.0	25.6	73.1	0.0	5.4	81.1	13.5
	District	0.8	13.2	44.3	41.7	0.5	4.9	37.0	57.6	3.1	16.6	72.7	7.6
	State	2.6	21.3	50.2	26.0	2.1	10.4	45.9	41.6	5.2	28.3	62.6	3.9
Black	School	0.0	80.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	100.	0.0	0.0				
	District	7.5	49.1	34.0	9.4	7.5	26.4	52.8	13.2	11.5	32.7	55.8	0.0
	State	16.1	49.9	29.3	4.8	19.2	35.4	37.7	7.7	18.1	47.1	33.9	0.9
Hispanic	School												
	District	6.3	31.3	51.6	10.9	3.1	20.3	37.5	39.1	10.9	29.7	56.3	3.1
	State	9.0	42.9	39.9	8.2	7.6	26.2	49.5	16.7	10.2	40.9	47.2	1.8
Asian/ Pacific Islander	School												
	District	0.0	6.1	66.7	27.3	0.0	3.0	39.4	57.6	0.0	27.3	69.7	3.0
	State	1.2	17.1	49.9	31.8	1.0	6.3	38.0	54.7	2.5	22.0	68.9	6.6
Native American	School												
	District												
	State	3.3	31.0	47.3	18.4	3.0	19.8	48.9	28.2	6.9	36.1	54.5	2.4

Students with Disabilities		Reading				Mathematics				Writing			
Levels		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
IEP	School	0.0	60.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	40.0	20.0	20.0				
	District	9.5	51.8	27.7	10.9	5.8	25.2	45.3	23.7	18.4	31.6	48.5	1.5
	State	21.2	47.7	25.5	5.5	18.9	29.3	39.1	12.6	26.3	40.9	32.0	0.9
Section 504	School												
	District	0.0	22.2	55.6	22.2	0.0	0.0	77.8	22.2	0.0	44.4	55.6	0.0
	State	7.5	37.3	43.6	11.6	8.1	22.2	45.3	24.4	11.2	42.0	45.0	1.8
Non- disabled	School	0.0	3.7	39.5	56.8	0.0	3.8	23.8	72.5	0.0	5.3	81.6	13.2
	District	0.2	10.2	47.5	42.1	0.2	4.1	36.3	59.4	1.8	16.3	74.3	7.7
	State	4.6	28.6	46.2	20.6	5.5	17.0	44.6	32.9	6.6	33.4	56.8	3.3

Economically Disadvantaged		Reading				Mathematics				Writing			
Levels		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Free/Reduced Price Lunch	School	0.0	71.4	28.6	0.0	14.3	71.4	0.0	14.3	16.7	33.3	50.0	0.0
	District	4.9	45.1	37.8	12.2	3.7	25.6	50.0	20.7	13.8	30.0	53.8	2.5
	State	13.2	46.5	34.2	6.1	14.6	31.1	42.7	11.7	15.7	45.4	37.8	1.0
Not Eligible	School	0.0	1.3	39.2	59.5	0.0	0.0	25.6	74.4	0.0	4.1	82.4	13.5
	District	1.2	13.4	45.5	39.9	0.8	5.3	36.8	57.1	3.2	17.7	72.0	7.1
	State	3.2	22.4	48.9	25.6	3.1	11.6	44.6	40.7	5.3	28.2	62.3	4.1

GRADE 4		Science				Social Science			
Levels		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	School	1.4	2.7	52.1	43.8	0.0	2.7	78.1	19.2
	District	1.1	9.8	57.1	31.9	1.9	13.0	67.0	18.1
	State	7.6	25.2	53.3	13.8	9.6	30.5	53.7	6.2

Gender		Science				Social Science			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Male	School	2.3	4.5	45.5	47.7	0.0	2.3	79.5	18.2
	District	1.3	9.3	51.9	37.6	2.3	12.5	65.1	20.0
	State	7.9	23.5	52.2	16.3	10.4	29.1	53.4	7.1
Female	School	0.0	0.0	62.1	37.9	0.0	3.4	75.9	20.7
	District	1.0	10.5	63.0	25.5	1.4	13.6	69.2	15.8
	State	7.2	27.0	54.6	11.2	8.8	32.0	54.0	5.2

Racial/Ethnic Background		Science				Social Science			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
White	School	1.5	0.0	53.8	44.6	0.0	0.0	81.5	18.5
	District	0.6	6.5	57.9	35.0	1.1	10.1	69.2	19.6
	State	2.5	15.1	61.9	20.5	3.3	20.8	66.8	9.1
Black	School								
	District	7.5	35.8	54.7	1.9	5.7	41.5	49.1	3.8
	State	18.4	44.0	35.4	2.2	22.9	47.7	28.5	1.0
Hispanic	School								
	District	4.3	24.3	55.7	15.7	8.6	24.3	58.6	8.6
	State	12.7	39.0	44.7	3.6	16.0	45.8	36.8	1.3
Asian/ Pacific Islander	School								
	District	0.0	18.6	48.8	32.6	2.3	18.6	55.8	23.3
	State	1.8	14.6	61.6	22.1	2.6	18.3	66.2	12.9
Native American	School								
	District								
	State	3.4	19.9	62.3	14.4	7.1	24.1	61.9	6.9

Students with Disabilities		Science				Social Science			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
IEP	School	0.0	10.0	40.0	50.0	0.0	20.0	70.0	10.0
	District	3.0	23.2	53.6	20.2	5.4	31.0	53.6	10.1
	State	17.0	36.6	41.0	5.4	24.1	40.7	33.4	1.8
Section 504	School								
	District	12.5	0.0	50.0	37.5	0.0	12.5	62.5	25.0
	State	8.3	31.9	50.2	9.6	9.6	40.5	45.0	4.8
Non- disabled	School	1.6	1.6	54.0	42.9	0.0	0.0	79.4	20.6
	District	0.7	7.4	57.8	34.1	1.3	9.5	69.7	19.5
	State	6.1	23.4	55.3	15.2	7.3	28.9	56.9	6.9

Economically Disadvantaged		Science				Social Science			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Free/Reduced Price Lunch	School	0.0	40.0	40.0	20.0	0.0	40.0	60.0	0.0
	District	7.4	34.7	49.5	8.4	10.5	38.9	47.4	3.2
	State	14.6	40.1	41.7	3.7	18.5	45.9	34.3	1.2
Not Eligible	School	1.5	0.0	52.9	45.6	0.0	0.0	79.4	20.6
	District	0.5	7.4	57.8	34.3	1.1	10.4	69.0	19.6
	State	3.5	16.7	60.1	19.7	4.5	21.7	64.8	9.0

**GRADE 5**

All	Levels	Reading				Mathematics				Writing			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	School	0.8	6.3	31.0	61.9	0.0	6.3	59.5	34.1	0.0	3.3	83.5	13.2
	District	0.5	15.4	35.2	48.9	0.6	12.0	66.3	21.1	1.6	17.2	67.2	14.1
	State	1.5	39.4	36.8	22.3	5.2	32.0	54.9	7.9	5.8	35.4	53.9	4.9

Gender		Reading				Mathematics				Writing			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Male	School	0.0	6.1	31.8	62.1	0.0	4.5	53.0	42.4	0.0	4.7	92.2	3.1
	District	0.5	16.6	36.6	46.2	0.2	11.0	63.1	25.7	2.2	20.8	68.7	8.4
	State	1.9	41.1	36.4	20.6	6.0	31.7	53.6	8.6	8.2	40.4	48.6	2.9
Female	School	1.7	6.7	30.0	61.7	0.0	8.3	66.7	25.0	0.0	1.8	73.7	24.6
	District	0.4	14.1	33.8	51.8	0.9	13.0	69.6	16.4	0.9	13.4	65.6	20.0
	State	1.1	37.4	37.2	24.3	4.2	32.1	56.5	7.2	3.2	30.2	59.5	7.0

Racial/Ethnic Background		Reading				Mathematics				Writing			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
White	School	0.0	2.7	28.8	68.5	0.0	2.7	60.4	36.9	0.0	1.9	83.3	14.8
	District	0.2	12.4	34.7	52.7	0.4	9.1	67.8	22.6	1.1	15.0	68.9	15.0
	State	0.7	26.8	41.6	31.0	1.8	20.9	66.1	11.2	3.8	28.5	61.0	6.7
Black	School	9.1	45.5	45.5	0.0	0.0	45.5	45.5	9.1	0.0	11.1	88.9	0.0
	District	3.6	38.2	47.3	10.9	1.8	47.3	49.1	1.8	7.5	32.1	60.4	0.0
	State	3.4	63.2	26.8	6.6	13.4	54.4	31.3	0.9	10.6	49.7	38.3	1.4
Hispanic	School												
	District	0.0	33.3	38.9	27.8	1.9	25.9	66.7	5.6	3.7	29.6	63.0	3.7
	State	2.1	57.4	31.9	8.6	7.1	46.6	44.2	2.1	7.4	44.6	46.0	2.0
Asian/ Pacific Islander	School												
	District	2.3	27.3	27.3	43.2	0.0	11.4	59.1	29.5	2.3	27.3	45.5	25.0
	State	0.3	24.3	40.1	35.4	0.9	13.8	63.8	21.5	1.8	23.4	64.4	10.3
Native American	School												
	District												
	State	1.1	36.6	43.4	18.9	4.3	31.8	57.2	6.7	6.0	37.1	54.0	2.9

Students with Disabilities		Reading				Mathematics				Writing			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
IEP	School	6.7	26.7	46.7	20.0	0.0	46.7	46.7	6.7	0.0	0.0	100.	0.0
	District	2.5	50.9	33.1	13.5	2.5	38.3	53.7	5.6	6.3	39.6	52.8	1.3
	State	7.3	68.4	19.2	5.1	18.5	50.2	29.7	1.6	23.2	48.1	27.8	0.9
Section 504	School												
	District	0.0	6.3	50.0	43.8	0.0	12.5	75.0	12.5	0.0	31.3	68.8	0.0
	State	1.3	47.7	35.7	15.3	6.0	41.1	48.4	4.5	7.4	43.7	45.9	3.0
Non- disabled	School	0.0	3.6	28.8	67.6	0.0	0.9	61.3	37.8	0.0	3.7	81.5	14.8
	District	0.1	9.2	35.3	55.4	0.2	7.3	68.4	24.0	0.8	13.0	69.7	16.6
	State	0.5	34.6	39.7	25.2	3.0	28.9	59.1	9.0	3.0	33.4	58.0	5.5

Economically Disadvantaged		Reading				Mathematics				Writing			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Free/Reduced Price Lunch	School	0.0	55.6	33.3	11.1	0.0	44.4	44.4	11.1	0.0	28.6	71.4	0.0
	District	1.2	47.1	36.5	15.3	3.6	41.7	48.8	6.0	4.8	39.8	53.0	2.4
	State	2.7	59.9	30.0	7.5	9.9	49.3	39.1	1.6	9.5	48.1	41.0	1.5
Not Eligible	School	0.9	2.6	30.8	65.8	0.0	3.4	60.7	35.9	0.0	1.8	84.2	14.0
	District	0.4	12.7	35.1	51.8	0.3	9.5	67.8	22.4	1.3	15.3	68.3	15.1
	State	0.8	27.8	40.6	30.7	2.5	22.2	63.9	11.5	3.7	28.4	61.1	6.8

Dear Whittier Families,

The 2001-2002 Whittier School Report Card is presented to you as a source of information, as well as a yearly update on the academic achievement of our students based on Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT.) A review of this document will reveal much about our school – everything from specific data about Whittier to a comparison of district, as well as statewide information.

Whittier students performed very well as measured by the ISAT. Both in third and fifth grade, over ninety percent of the children met or exceeded state standards in reading, writing, and mathematics. In fourth grade, over ninety-five percent of the girls and boys met or exceeded state standards in the content areas of science and social studies. This is a wonderful accomplishment for the students, staff, and parents at Whittier School and we should take a moment to reflect on this excellent performance, while keeping in mind that this is just one indication of a school's effectiveness.

In order to continue to maintain and improve student academic achievement, every school in District 200 prepares and implements a School Improvement Plan (SIP) each year. The SIP is an integral part of our instructional program, a road map designed specifically for Whittier by a team of our classroom teachers, specialists, and the principal, based on the data gathered throughout the previous school year.

The SIP team spends a great deal of time examining various types of data to help us create a viable, meaningful plan. This year we have used the results generated by the Terra Nova testing that took place last fall, the latest ISAT scores, local assessments prepared at the district level, plus the expertise of our teachers' opinions and observations. Based on this wealth of information, we decide what we can do to make Whittier a stronger school academically for all children.

Whittier's School Improvement Plan for school year 2002-03 has two primary goals:

- To improve student reading comprehension through the use of thinking strategies with emphasis on non-fiction text
- To improve communication of mathematical understanding in written and oral venues.

Reading comprehension is the key to a student's academic success throughout life. We consistently focus on this aspect of instruction and it is logical that we would include it as a SIP goal. Direct instruction in specific thinking strategies to improve reading comprehension is a focus in every classroom. The newsletter sent home by your children's teachers often describe how this goal is being implemented. Making connections while reading, asking questions during reading, summarizing material after reading, making inferences from reading, and synthesizing information are all thinking strategies that we teach to develop and expand student comprehension. Obviously, these are advanced thinking skills and much more sophisticated than just a literal, basic understanding of what is read. Since non-fiction comprises the bulk of reading done by both students and adults in everyday life, we believe that emphasizing the use of these thinking strategies with non-fiction text will enhance students' learning.

Our second goal centers on mathematics and the ability to express "mathematical thinking." On the ISAT, children are asked to perform two extended response tasks where they must solve a

multi-step problem that requires a written explanation of the thinking process that was used to derive the answer. Whittier students performed well in the areas of mathematical and strategic knowledge, but did not perform as well in the explanation portion of these test items. By introducing this type of explanation activity in the primary grades, as well as emphasizing both written and oral explanation of problem solving steps in all grades, we hope to boost student performance and foster more “mathematical thinking” throughout our school.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or stop by the office. I would be happy to talk to you about our fine school and share our 2002-03 SIP plan.

Sincerely,

Joanne S. Hall, Principal