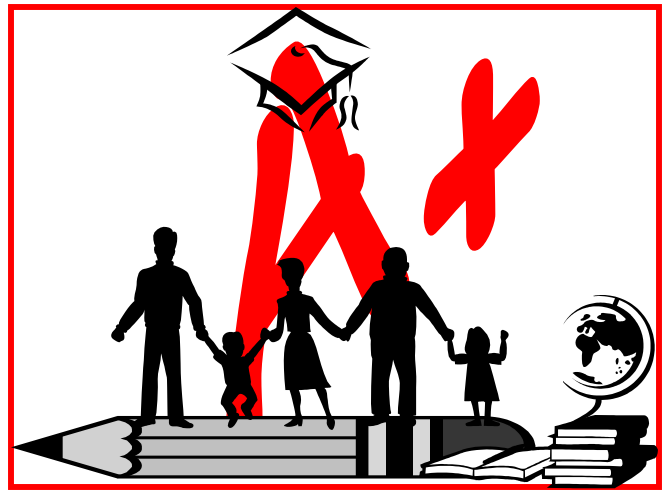


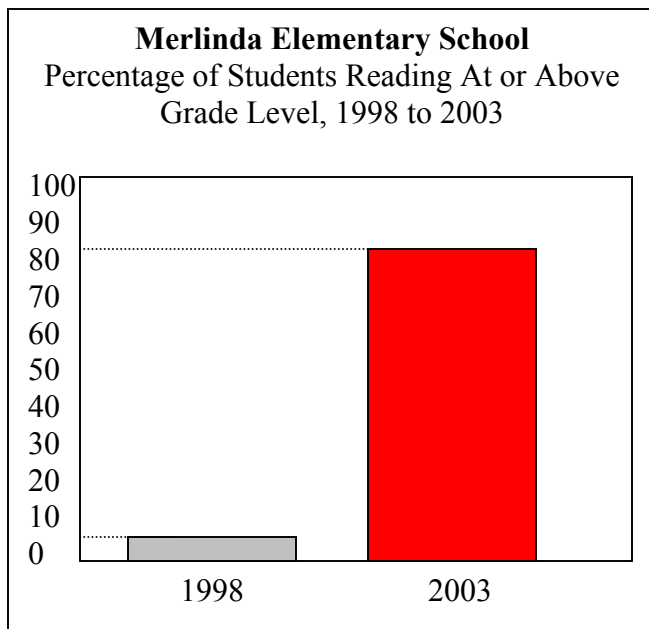
Involving Families Improves Instruction



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After five years starting at 6 percent of students at or above reading level, we now have 80 percent at or above reading level. Merlinda’s Academic Performance Index (API) score has increased 194 points, from 595 to 789 on an 800-point scale.

Family involvement is the key to Merlinda Elementary School’s success. With 552 predominately Hispanic students (about 82 percent), we have a 96 percent attendance rate and we work very hard on that. Our students not only attend school regularly, a 7:00 a.m. book club also draws 80 voluntary attendees.



Merlinda has an excellent family support team, our favorite part of the Success for All program. We host quarterly family nights, and involve families in the “skill of the week.” After identifying an area where students need to improve, we post the skill on the school’s marquee, integrate the skill across all subject areas, and communicate it to parents, providing them activities and resources to help students practice.