

The Star Thrower Story

by Joel Barker





All children should have access to an education that allows them to achieve their greatest potential.

Achievement Gap - Nationally

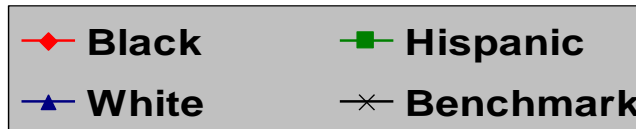
- 30% of students failed to graduate on time
- 50% of African American and Hispanic students
- Every 26 seconds another student gives up on school
- 1.2 million in 2007
- 1.1 million in 2008

Unit 5 – Academic Excellence

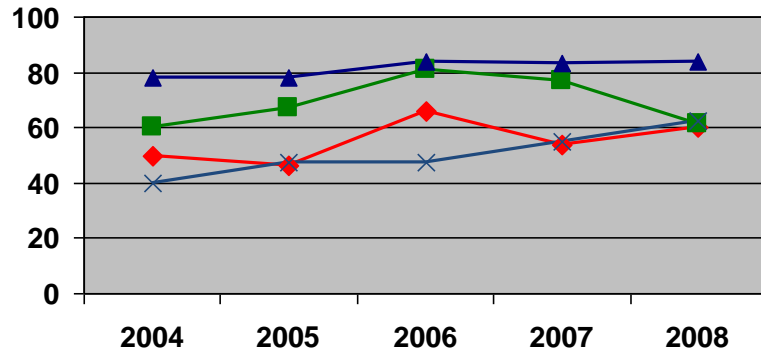
- Sustained excellence in elementary schools
- 90% of students pass the state tests for at least 3 years
- 5 school with highest honor awarded
- Top 2% of state districts



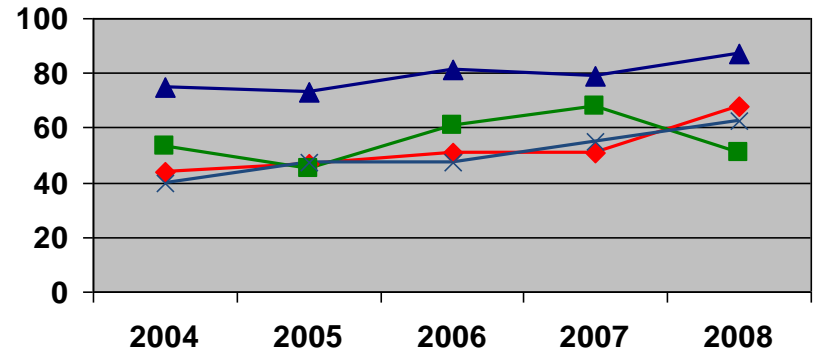
Reading Unit 5 – by Subgroup



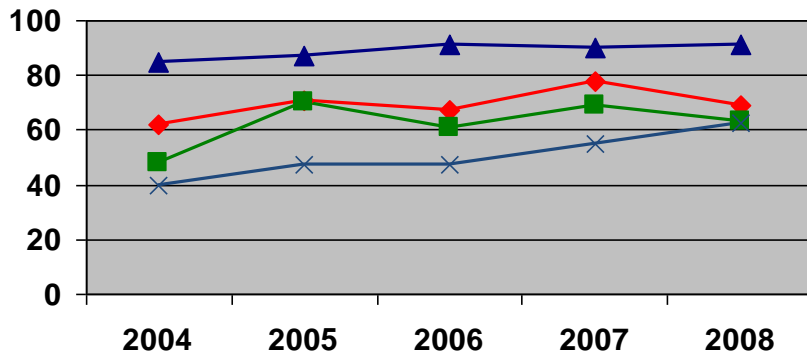
Grade 3



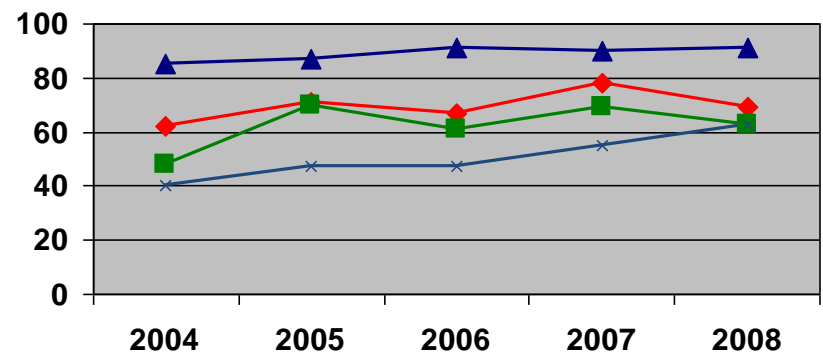
Grade 5



Grade 8



Grade 11



Locally...

Yes, achievement gaps exist...

At one local elementary school test scores were highest among African American students.

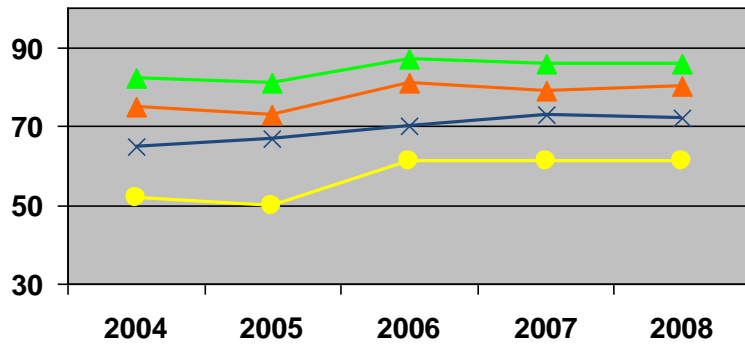
At another, test scores were highest among Hispanic students.

In over 10 different classrooms 100% of students scored at or above state standards.

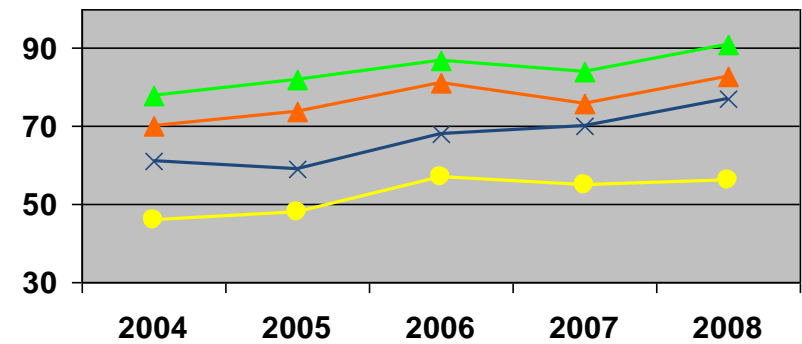
Reading Unit 5 – Low SES



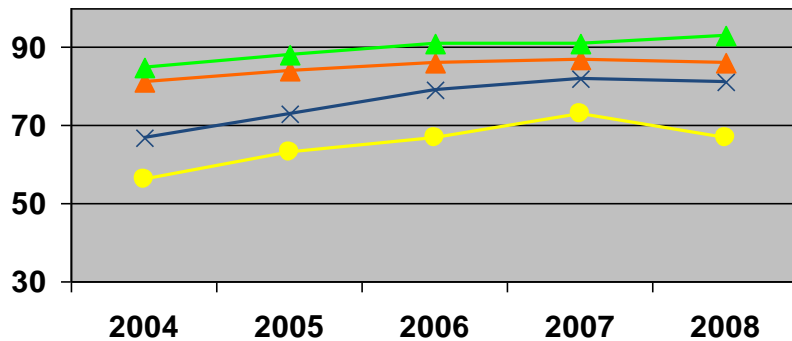
Grade 3



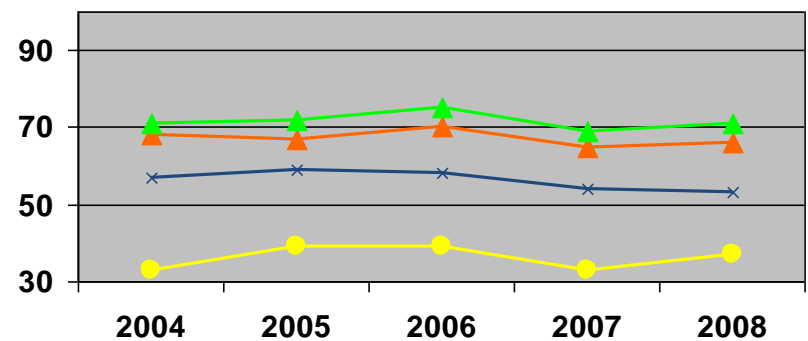
Grade 5



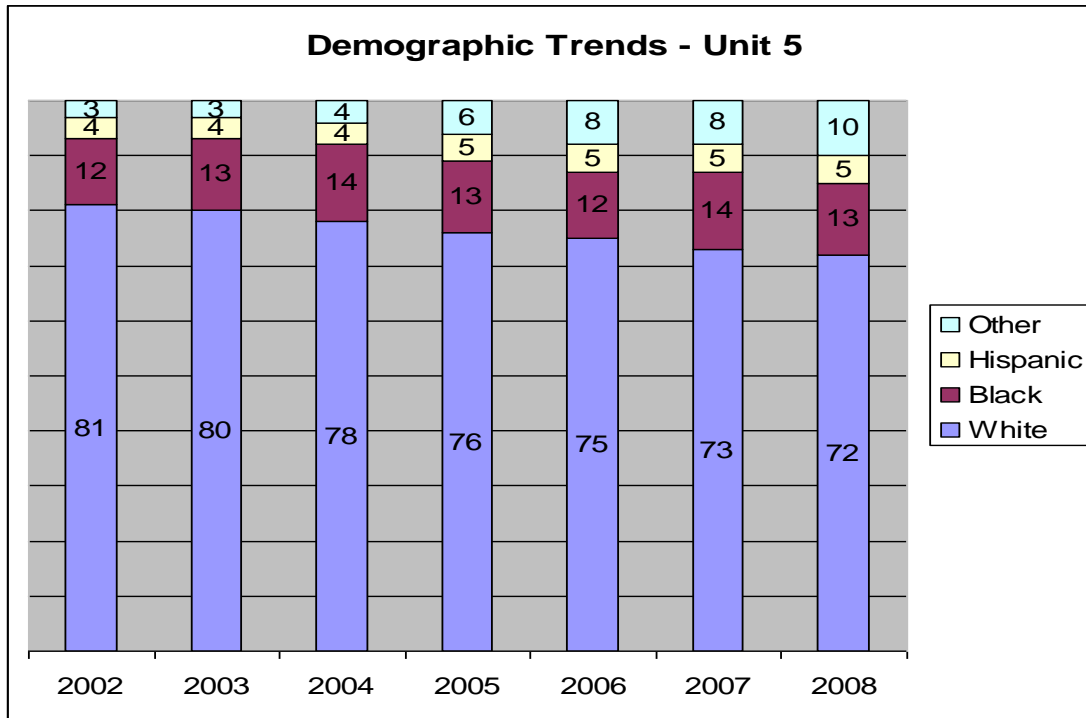
Grade 8



Grade 11



Demographics – Unit 5



District is experiencing growth of about 350 annually

Increasing diversity

Increasing low SES population

	2002	2004	2006	2008
Enrollment	10,365	10,932	11,760	12,452
Low SES	20%	21%	24%	24%

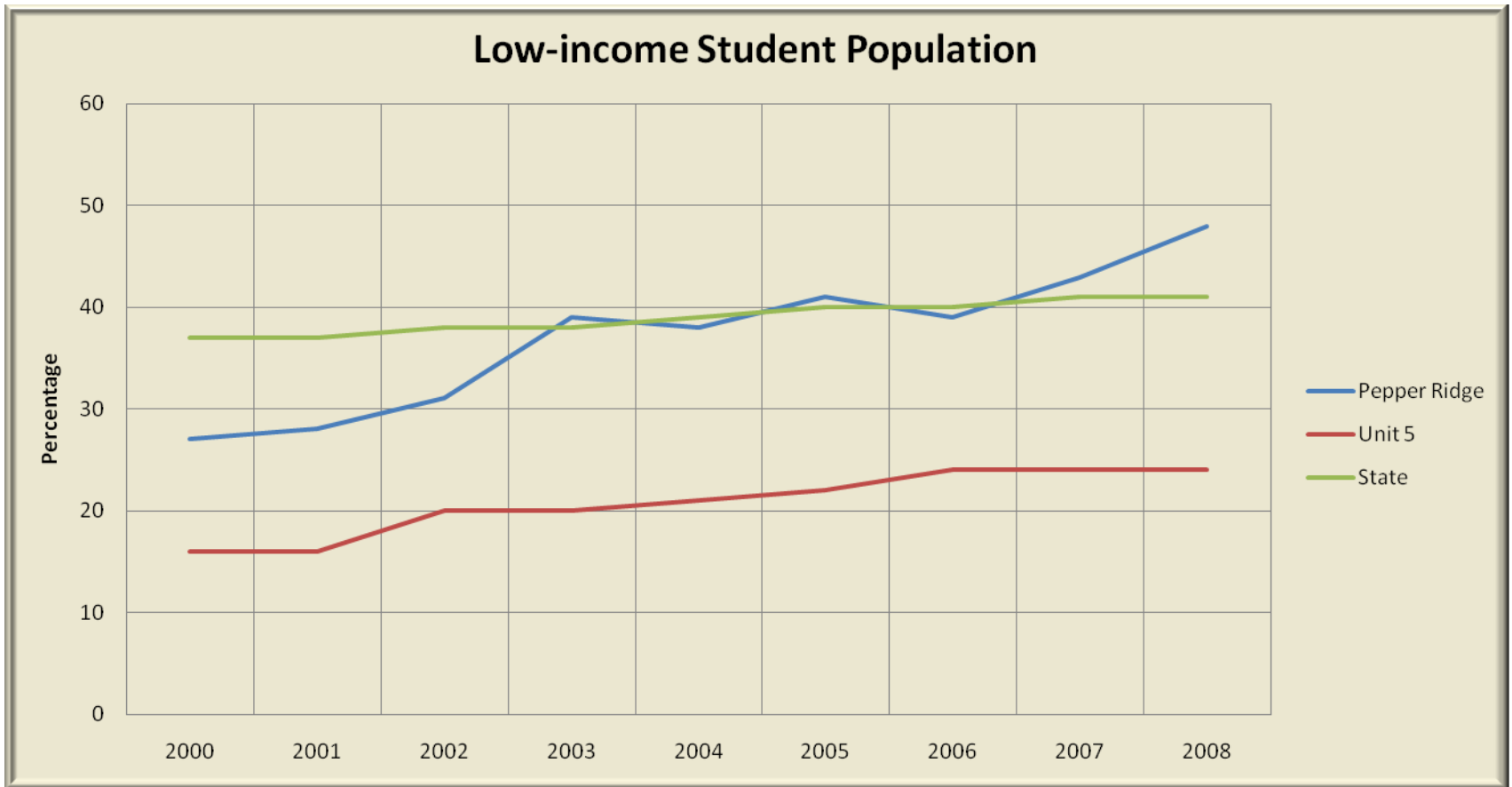
About 45% of the growth has come from 20% of the population – Low SES

The Unit 5 Challenge

- The hill is getting steeper
- The load is getting heavier



Pepper Ridge Growth of Low SES



More students are coming to school **WITHOUT...**

- A good night's sleep
- Clean clothes or adequate food
- Simple supplies to do their schoolwork
- Traditional academic support from home

Ask a teacher what these students need to help improve their academic performance.

- Mentors to encourage and care
- Increased parental involvement
- Physical needs



Today, the teacher fills the gaps

- Help students before and after school
- Customize a lesson to meet a need
- Reach into own pocket to provide glasses, a new pair of pants, shoes, or even food
- Find a way to give them books, games or school supplies

But a teacher's resources are limited too.

What can we do?

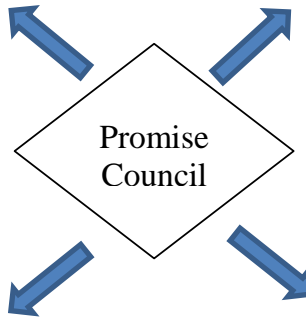


Promise Council Concept



Student Needs:

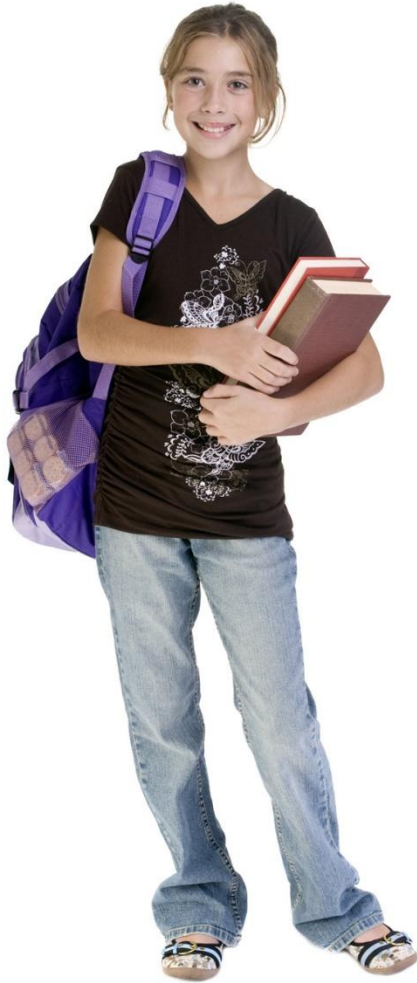
- Mentors
- Parental Engagement
- Physical needs



Community Resources

- PTO
- Business
- Churches
- Service Organizations
- Retirees
- University
- Health Care

Back to School Party



- August ??, 2011
- Horton Field House
- Backpacks / school supplies
- K – 8 5,000 students
- Resource Fair for parents
- Communitywide effort

Dance with us...

- Promise Council Rep
- BTS supplies / donations
- Be a mentor
- Dayna Brown

