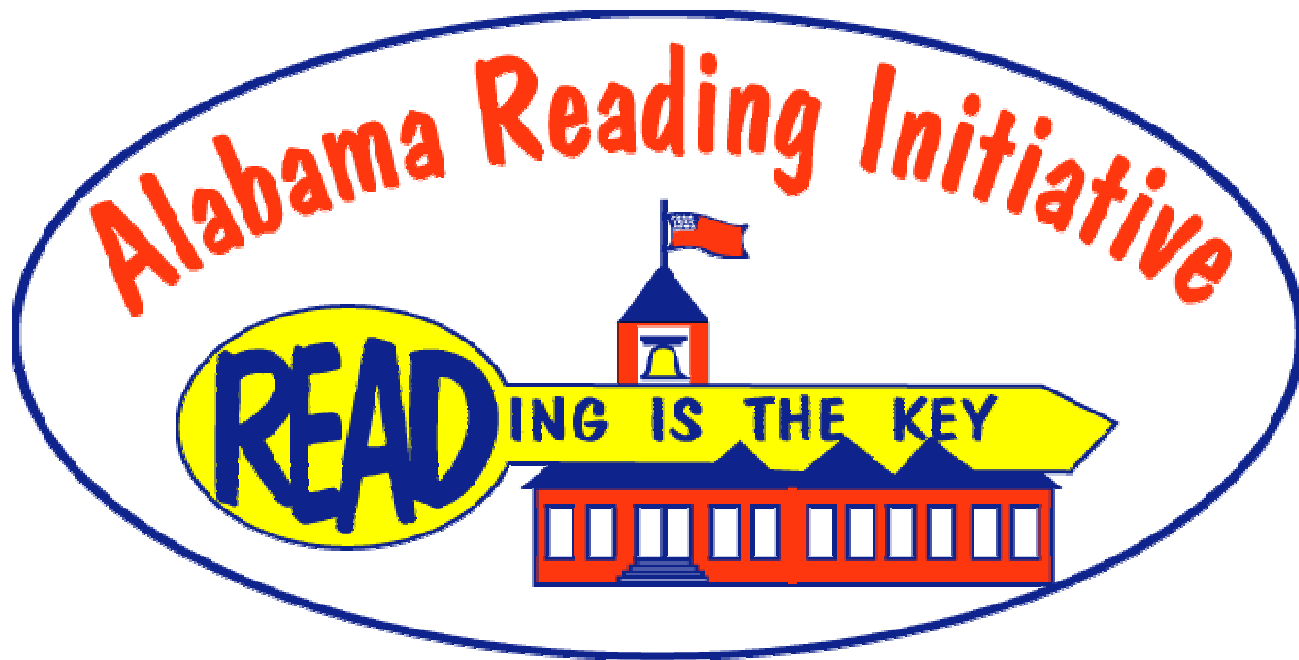




ALABAMA READING INITIATIVE

**IMPROVING
ADOLESCENT
LITERACY**



Alabama's Literacy Efforts
1997-2008

THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE PROVIDED FUNDING

■	16 schools in 1998-1999	\$ 1,500,000 (Private Sources)
■	81 schools in 1999-2000	\$ 6,000,000
■	267 schools in 2000-2001	\$10,000,000
■	423 schools in 2001-2002	\$11,300,000
■	450 schools in 2002-2003	\$12,500,000
■	485 schools in 2003-2004	\$12,500,000
■	511 schools in 2004-2005	\$40,000,000
■	753 schools in 2005-2006	\$56,000,000
■	900 schools in 2006-2007	\$56,000,000
■	907 schools in 2007-2008	\$64,000,000

In 2004-05 Alabama temporarily halted expansion of our adolescent literacy efforts in exchange for full funding in Grades K-3. Statewide training in the early grades was completed in 2006. Support for those grades is ongoing – and expensive.

WHAT IS ALABAMA'S POLICY APPROACH?

- We avoid unfunded mandates at all cost.
- We motivate schools to join us by being successful and by making participation voluntary.
- We express policy through budget requests, priorities for grants, and leveraging of funds when possible.

RECENT EXAMPLES

- Launched ARI Project for Adolescent Literacy in 2006.
 - > ARI offered initial professional development and weekly support.
 - > District provided all financial support and committed to implementing 15 essential components.
- Opened participating schools to visitors and published results.

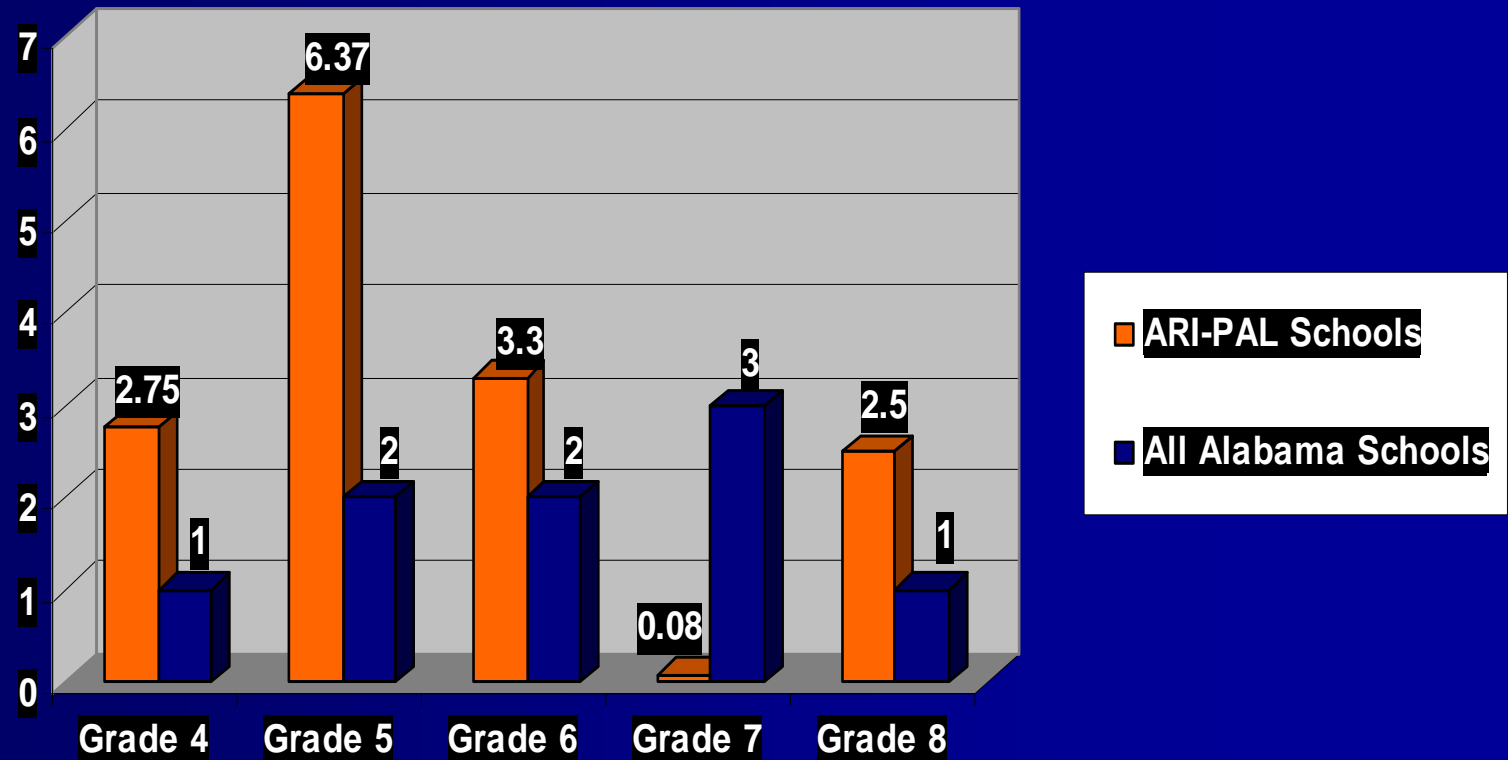
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ARI

- 135 ARI schools
 - ✓ 121 have received *some* ARI training.
 - ✓ **14 have received the most current, research-based training and intensive support.**

SO HOW DO ARI-PAL SCHOOLS MEASURE UP?

Alabama Reading Initiative Project for Adolescent Literacy

Comparison of ARI-PAL Schools and All Other Schools in Alabama
Average Gains in Percent of Students Scoring "Proficient" (Stanines 5-9)
Stanford Achievement Test 10th Edition - Reading Comprehension



RECENT EXAMPLES – (Continued)

- Offered statewide professional development titled *Best Practices in Adolescent Literacy* in Summer 2007. All sessions had:
 - > Three, six-hour days on essential components.
 - > ARI-certified trainers.
 - > ARI modules.
- Results of Summer Training 2007.
 - > Over 80 schools.
 - > Over 400 teachers.

CURRENT EFFORTS – FUNDS PENDING FOR 2008-09

- Expand through School Improvement Grant - \$1,800,000
 - > Target four to seven urban schools in multiple years of school improvement.
 - > Implement ARI in Year One, Jobs for Alabama Graduates (JAG) in Year Two and Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) in Year Three.
 - > Fund \$100,000 for a district coach, \$70,000 for school support (literacy coach or intervention teacher), and up to \$100,000 for intervention program(s) and program-specific support .

CURRENT EFFORTS – FUNDS PENDING 2008-09 (Cont.)

Pending \$15,000,000 budget increase from state legislature:

- Add 21 schools within current 18 districts, July 2008.
- Add 136 new schools and 66 new districts, July 2009.
- Total of 171 schools in 84 districts by July 2009.
 - > Initial training.
 - > \$100,000 for district coach (will reimburse district based on successful work).
 - > \$70,000 school support (literacy coach or intervention teacher) (will reimburse based on successful work).
 - > Weekly support to schools.
 - > Start-up costs for 2009-2010.

THE BIGGEST BOOST

NAEP

RESULTS - 2007

NAEP GRADE 4 READING

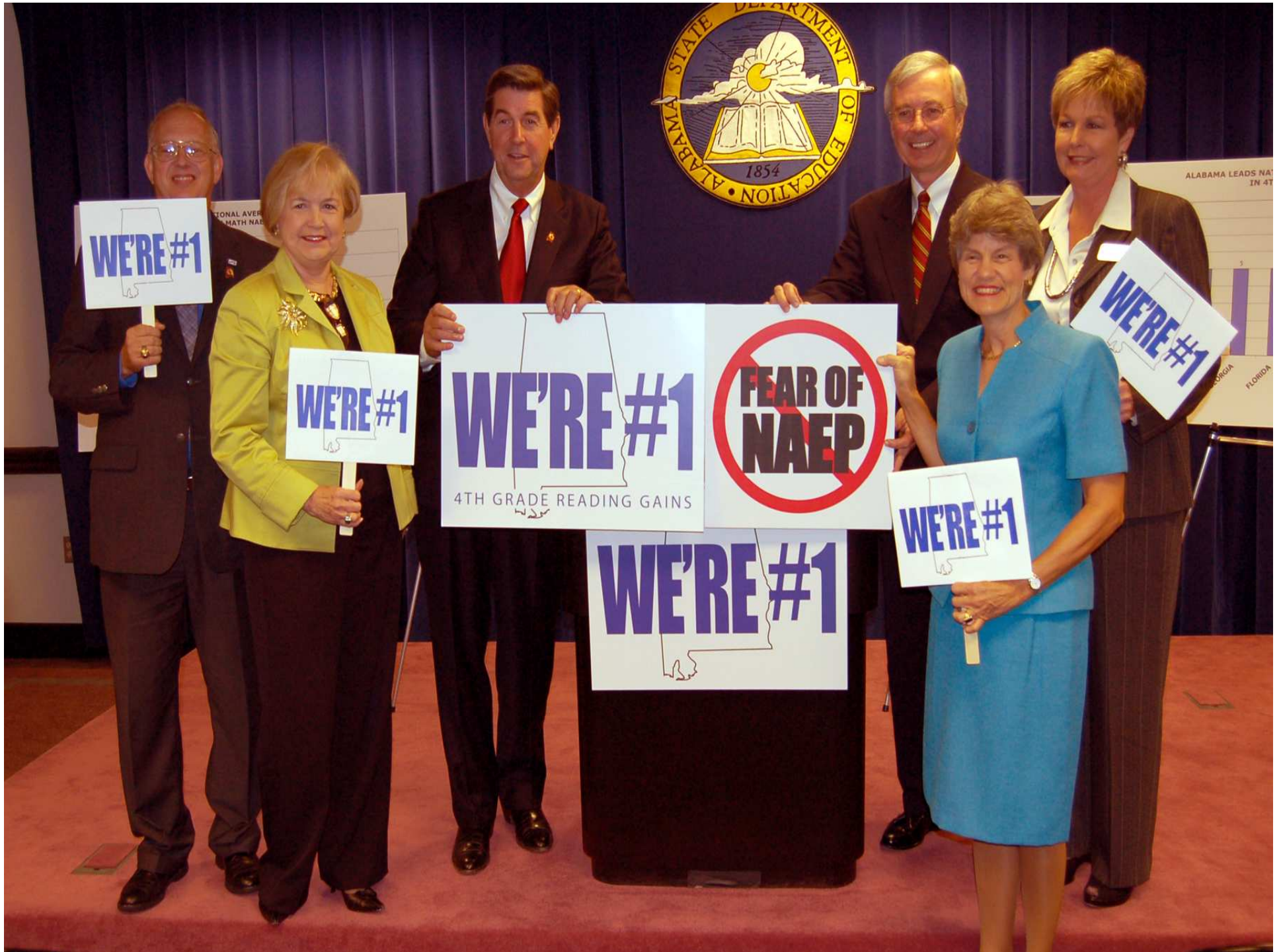
Average Scale Score Change

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Change</u>
1. Alabama	207.75	216.39	8.64
2. New Jersey	223	231	7
3. District of Columbia	191	197	6
4. New Mexico	207	212	5
5. Maryland	220	225	5
6. Nation	217	220	2

**4TH GRADE STUDENTS SCORING
ADVANCED (HIGHEST LEVEL)**

THE NATION 7%

ALABAMA 7%



WE'RE #1

WE'RE #1

WE'RE #1
4TH GRADE READING GAINS

FEAR OF NAEP

WE'RE #1

WE'RE #1

WE'RE #1



THE GREATEST IMPACT ON POLICY...

Governor Bob Riley said, "Alabama is number one in the nation in reading improvements at the fourth grade level. This didn't happen by accident. This is part of our game plan to improve education in Alabama....I want to thank all the teachers because they are doing exactly what we asked them to do. They know how incredible our Alabama Reading Initiative is....They know we must continue to expand it to all grade levels, and we will."

September 25, 2007

FEATURES OF FIVE-YEAR EXPANSION PLAN

- Expansion mechanism to be established and tested in 2008-2009 (\$15,000,000).
- State funds will pay for a district trainer and supporter.
- Each school will receive \$70,000 for intervention teacher or literacy coach.
- By 2012, all districts and all 1,150 Alabama schools with Grades 4-8 will be implementing, with an anticipated ongoing budget of \$96,000,000 annually in addition to the budget to support Grades K-3.

A CRITICAL JUNCTURE

- Whether you can't "say" the written words or can't understand the meaning of difficult text, you're not a successful reader.
- We must assure that students in Grades 4-12 successfully cross the bridge into the literate world.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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