

PH Testimony Date: 2/29/08
Bill # RHB-5593
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CHARLES A. JASKIEWICZ

In Defense
of the
Early Reading Success
Grant



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Superintendent of Schools
Norwich Public Schools

Charles A. Jaskiewicz
Chairman
Board of Education
Norwich Public Schools

An Urgent Need

- Early reading success-
now or never
- A social investment

Plan In Motion

- A. Expand instructional time and quality of services to meet the needs of Tier II and III students in literacy
- B. Improve Teacher Knowledge
- C. Align Curriculum
- D. Maintain class size in K-3
 - Current Average: K = 17
 - 1 = 18
 - 2 = 17
 - 3 = 17

A: Improve and Expand Instructional Time and Quality of Services

- Restructure & refine early intervention program to meet the instructional needs of a growing number of children in grades K-3.
- Purchase a SBRR intervention program to complement core instruction and provide consistency among schools & grade levels
- Extend services to kindergarten population

Improve and Expand Instructional Time and Quality of Services

- Implement district-wide common scheduling in elementary schools, and accommodate an uninterrupted 90 minute literacy block, plus 45 minute differentiated intervention period
- Introduce district-wide enrichment block that employs certified tutors, classroom teachers and highly qualified paraprofessionals in order to:
 - provide additional focused instruction
 - provide challenges for advanced learners

Improve and Expand Instructional Time and Quality of Services

- Expanded after-school, focused tutorial sessions using action research, SMART goals and research based practice
- Utilize DDDM and Data Team model to focus work and connect student assessment data to effective instructional practice and the design of professional development

B: Improving Teacher Knowledge:

- District-wide investment in Scientifically Based Reading Research core reading program and accompanying Professional Development
- Provide professional development in research based literacy practices
- Employ literacy coaches to provide job embedded and extended professional development
- Utilize literacy coaches to roll out state designed reading modules to district teachers through Trainer of Teachers model
- Implemented Haskins Training
- Establishment of clear expectations for the 90 minute literacy block and classroom environment

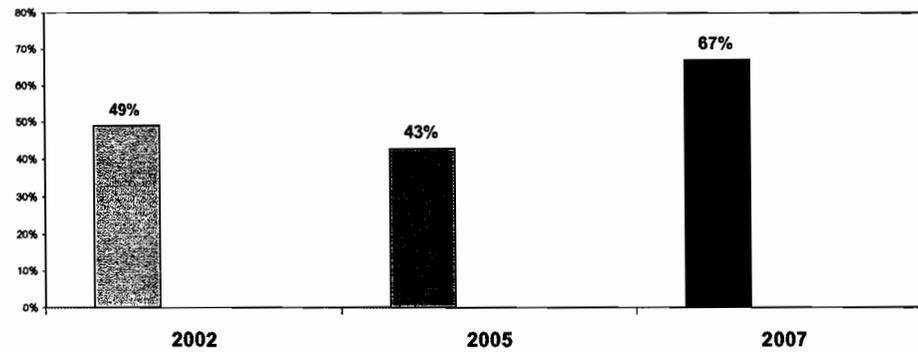
C. Aligning the Curriculum

- Implement a core, Scientifically Based Reading Researched program for grades Preschool-grade5 to address CT state standards in 2 year phase:

K-3 2006-2007

4-5 2007-2008

Kindergarten Spring DRA Score



Full Day K

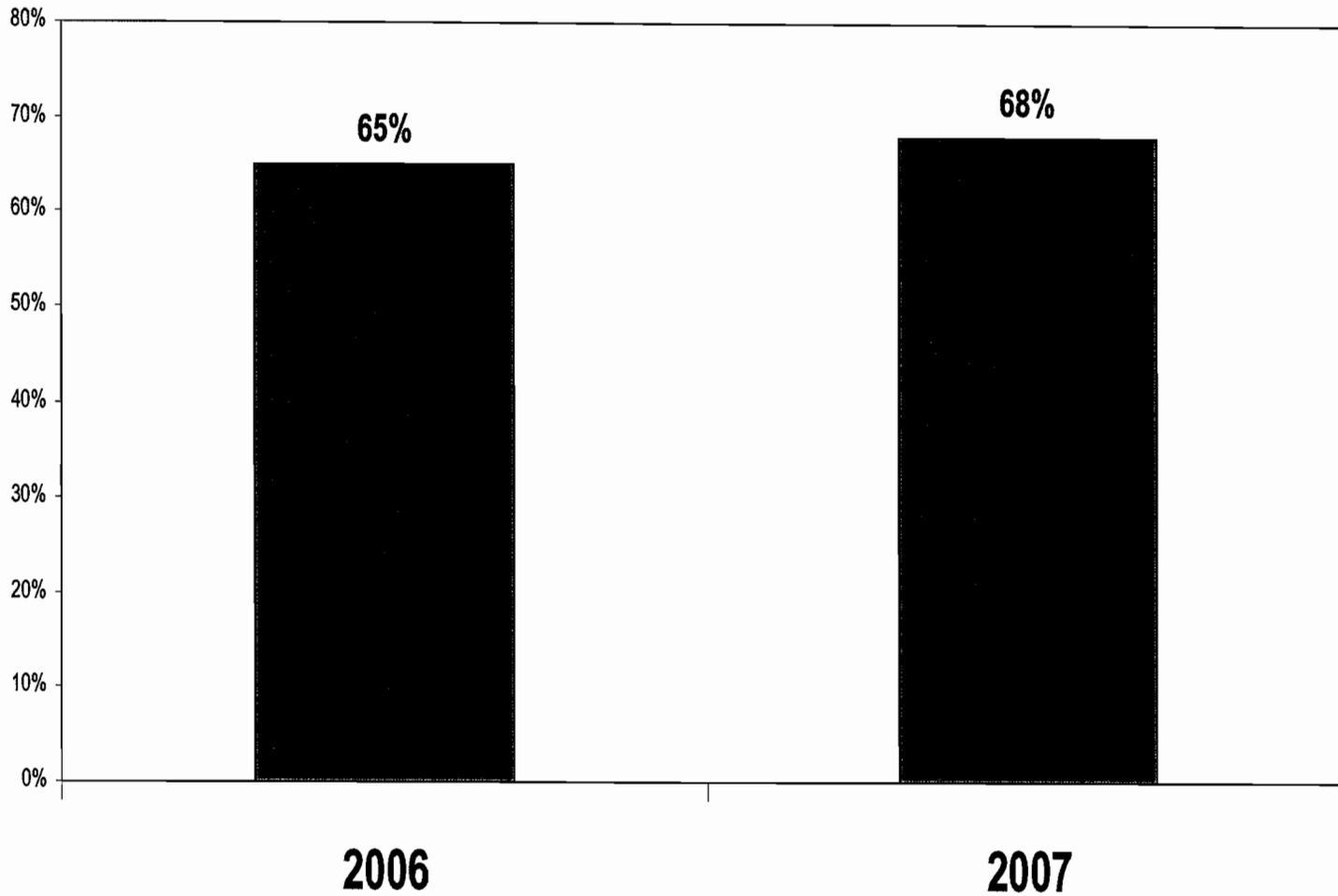
Half Day K

Half Day K

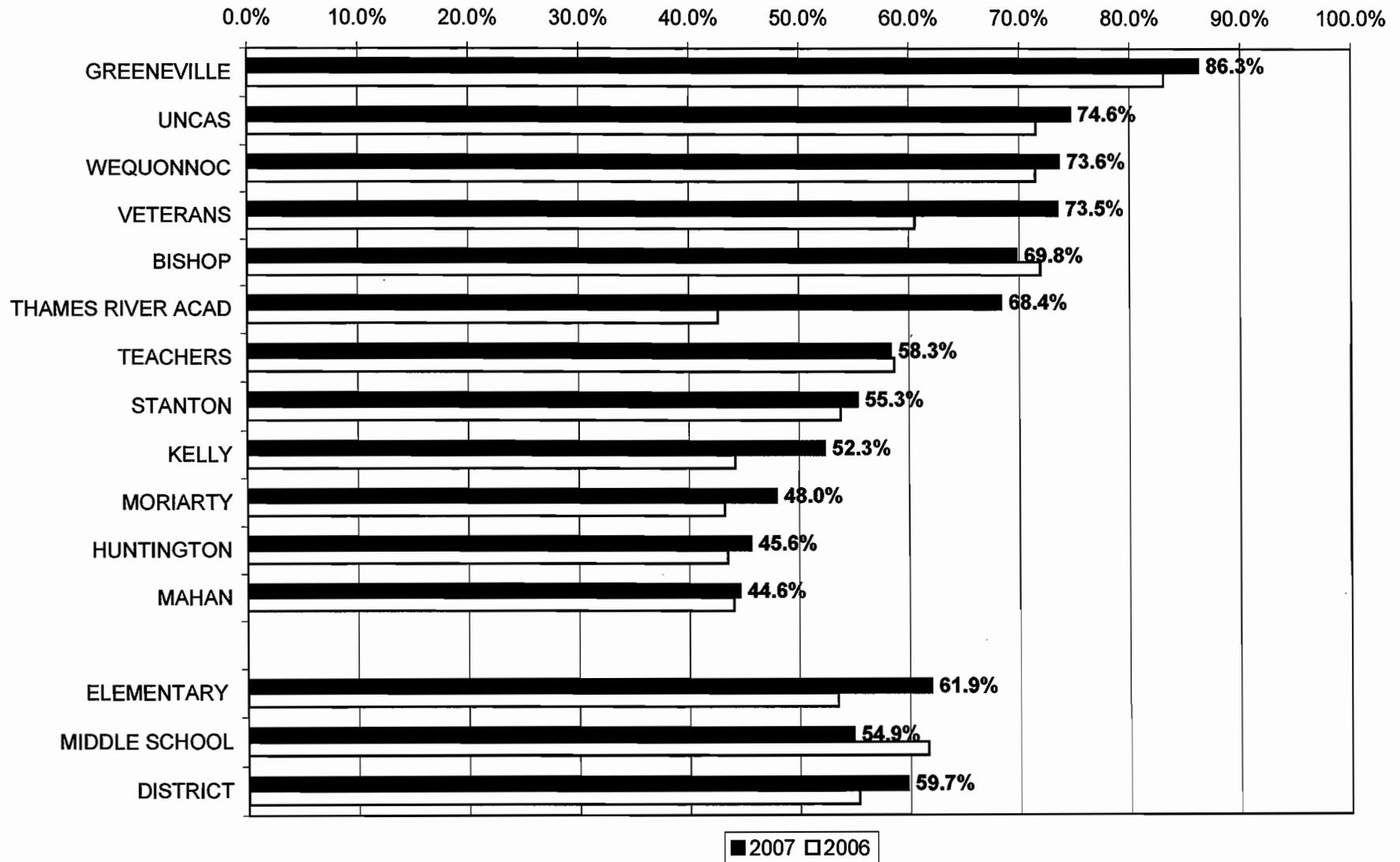
prior to ERS

after ERS

Grade 3 May DRA Scores



FREE AND REDUCED MEALS PERCENT OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE, 2007



Preliminary October 1, 2007