

<<Back



Black students narrow ISTEP gap with whites

Indianapolis, March 3 - Black third-graders in Indiana narrowed the performance gap between them and their white classmates on statewide exams between 2002-2004, a new study has found.

The study released Thursday by The Education Trust found that the gap between black and white Hoosier third-graders narrowed by 5 percentage points in reading and 2 percentage points in math.



The analysis by the Washington-based nonprofit is based on the number of students passing the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus.

For example, in 2002, 77 percent of white students passed the ISTEP-Plus in language arts, while 50 percent of black students passed. In 2004, the passing rates were 80 percent for whites and 58 percent for blacks.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Suellen Reed declined to comment on the progress, saying she hadn't seen the report, said Mary Tiede Wilhelmus, a spokeswoman.

The results of the study, which evaluated elementary scores in 30 states, put Indiana squarely among the 26 states that its authors found had narrowed the performance gap.

Other groups showed less progress. Hispanics saw no change in reading and fell 3 percentage points further behind in math. American Indians gained in reading but fell behind 4 more percentage points in math.

The study found similarly mixed results among Indiana's eighth-graders. It did not evaluate Indiana high school students.

(Copyright 2006 by The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved.)



All content © Copyright 2002 - 2006 WorldNow and WTHR. All Rights Reserved.

For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#). It is the policy of [The Dispatch Broadcast Group](#) to provide equal employment opportunity to all qualified individuals without regard to their race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status, disability, military status, citizenship or any other legally-protected status in accordance with applicable local, state and federal law. [Jobs at WTHR EEO Public File Report](#)