



## EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING

# World of Inquiry School

“Expeditionary Learning has been the best thing that could have happened to World of Inquiry. It’s helped kids take more ownership of their learning.”

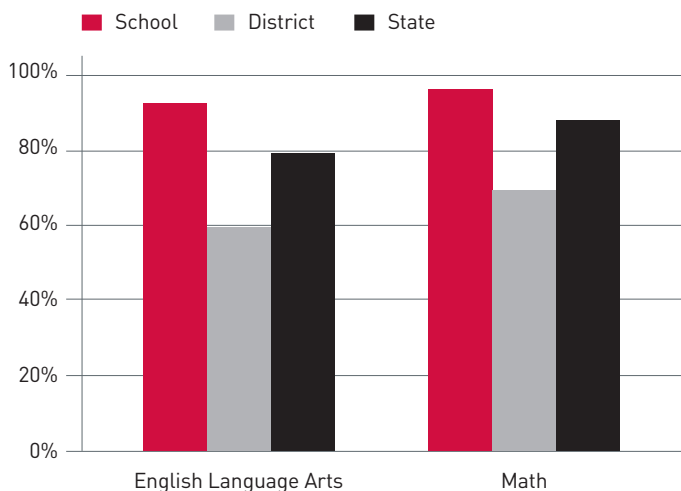
Principal Sheela Webster

World of Inquiry School students—most of whom qualify for free or reduced-price lunch—are the top-performing elementary school students in the Rochester City School District, out-performing their peers in some of New York State’s wealthiest districts. Since partnering with EL in 2002, this once struggling school has made steady progress to the top of the district and is now expanding to become a K–12 school.

With a faculty committed to the EL model, including an intense focus on literacy and the use of data to improve instruction, the World of Inquiry School has become an exemplar within the EL network.



English Language Arts & Math  
% of Students Proficient (2008–2009)



**CITY: ROCHESTER, NY**  
**GRADES SERVED: K–8**  
**(GROWING TO K–12)**  
**STUDENT ENROLLMENT: 293**  
**EL PARTNER SINCE 2002**

## Expeditionary Learning at World of Inquiry School

In 2002, World of Inquiry was a struggling school with low achievement and high rates of attrition. The staff reached out to EL to help unite them around a common vision and a strong design for curriculum and instruction.

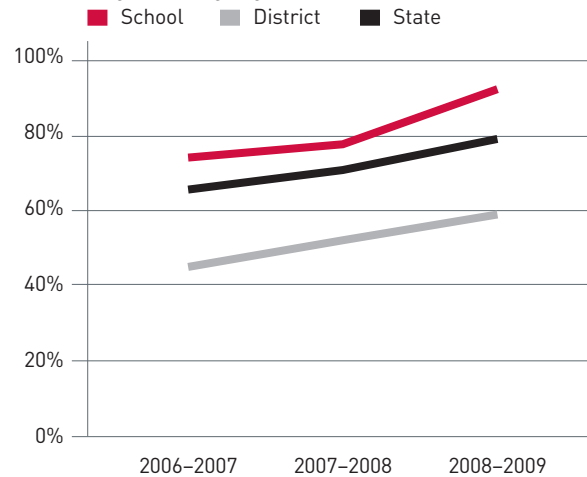
This is what World of Inquiry looks like now:

- World of Inquiry tops the district in test scores, parent involvement, and attendance.
- The school has replaced the district's basal readers and textbooks with teacher-designed curricula focused on two major learning expeditions each year.
- Teachers attend EL literacy institutes every year and convene year-round working groups to improve literacy instruction schoolwide.
- School leaders and instructional guides lead daily data-driven planning meetings to examine the skills of each student to inform lesson design and instruction.
- Students organize and lead weekly community meetings, featuring exhibitions of student work, that bring parents into the school on a regular basis.

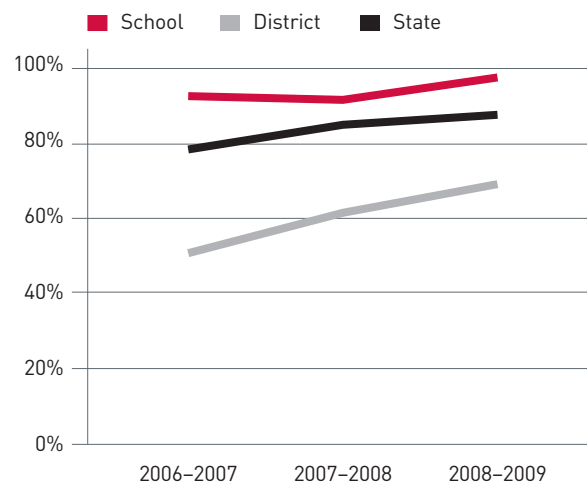
## Evidence of Success

- World of Inquiry is the most sought-after elementary school in the Rochester City School District. In a recent school year, it received 190 requests for 42 kindergarten seats.
- World of Inquiry has received numerous awards, including a National Blue Ribbon School Award from the United States Department of Education in 2010, an Excellence in Urban Education Award from the National Principals Leadership Institute in 2009, and a National School Change Award from Fordham University in 2007.
- New York State recognizes World of Inquiry as a High Performing/Gap Closing School.
- Between 2003 and 2010, attendance rates were among the highest in the city.
- In 2010 *PBS NewsHour* featured World of Inquiry and EL as examples of how federal stimulus money has leveraged innovation and achievement in urban school districts.

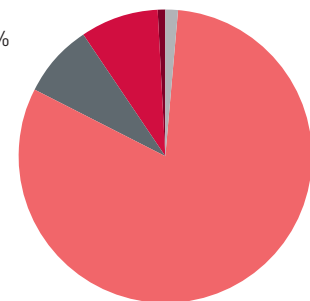
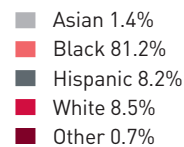
English Language Arts % Students Proficient



Math % Students Proficient



Student Profile (2008-2009)



Free/Reduced-Price Lunch Eligible 77.8%  
 Special Education 12.3%  
 English Language Learners 2.4%