Utah STATE OFFICE OF Education

STUDENT SERVICES AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS

3rd Grade ELA CRT Percent Proficient 2005-2010

There has been a slight increase in the percentage of 3rd grade students proficient on the English Language Arts CRTs. The difference from 2005 to 2010 is statistically significant, but the magnitude is small.

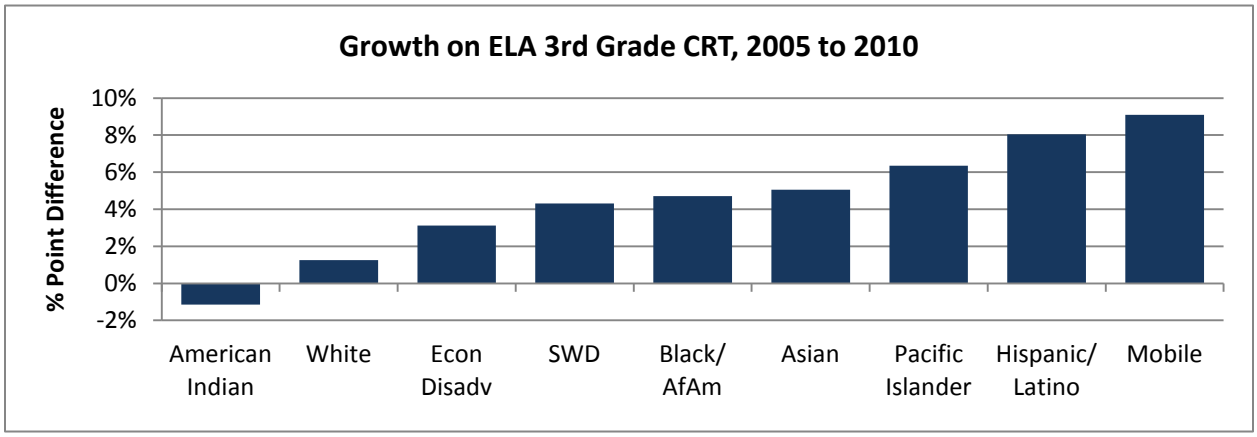
Percent Proficient on ELA 3rd Grade CRT					
SY 2005	SY 2006	SY 2007	SY 2008	SY 2009	SY 2010
76%	78%	78%	77%	80%	78%

There has been more movement within the mastery levels. There is nearly a 2 ½ percentage point decrease in the percentage of students who tested at the lowest level of proficiency (minimal) and almost a four percentage point increase in the percentage of students at the highest level of proficiency (Substantial). This is a net movement of about six percentage points.

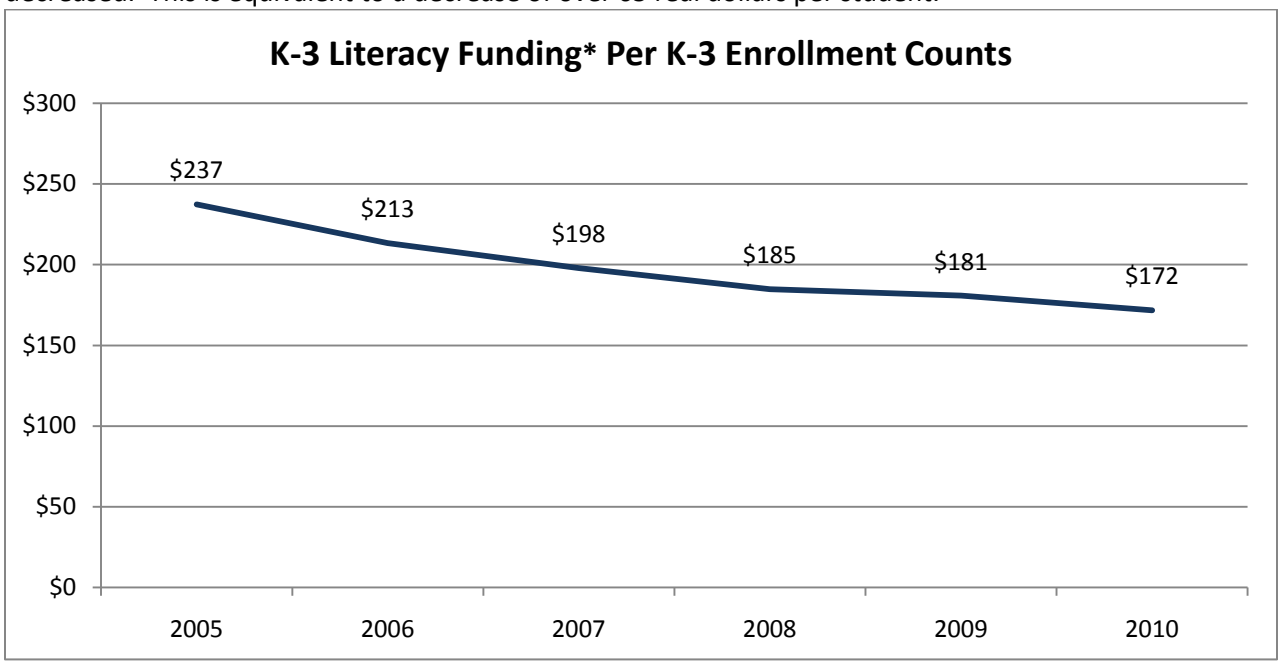
	Not Proficient		Proficient	
	Minimal	Partial	Sufficient	Substantial
SY 2005	10.5%	13.8%	32.8%	42.9%
SY 2010	8.1%	14.3%	31.0%	46.7%
Percentage Point Difference	-2.4%	0.5%	-1.8%	3.7%

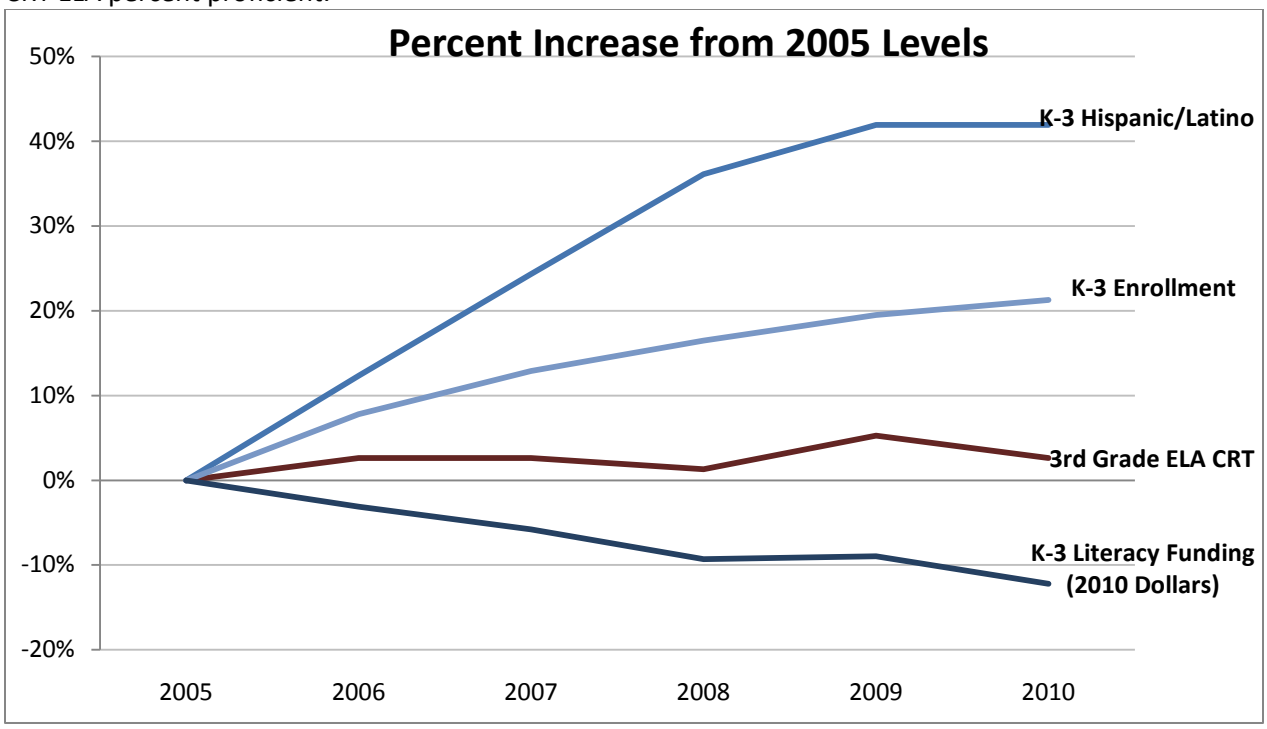
There are a number of factors that would negatively impact ELA 3rd grade CRT scores. First, in 2010 listening items were removed from the ELA CRTs, which could have had a slight negative impact on proficiency rates. This may in part explain the drop in the percentage of 3rd grade students proficient on the English Language Arts CRTs from 2009 to 2010.

Second, Utah is becoming more diverse with increased percentages of students in ethnic/racial and other subgroups. If Utah's 3rd grade students in 2010 performed at the same level as 3rd grade students in 2005, this shift in demographics would have caused a percentage point decrease in the percentage of 3rd grade students proficient on the English Language Arts CRTs. The increase in overall CRT scores was in part due to gains made by some subgroups. For example, Hispanic/Latino students increased by eight percentage points from 2005 to 2010.



Third, funding for K-3 Literacy has stayed around 15 million since 2005. However, taking into account inflation and the increase in enrollment counts, the amount of Literacy dollars per student has decreased. This is equivalent to a decrease of over 65 real dollars per student.



*Adjusted for inflation

Overall, from 2005 to 2010 Utah has experienced factors that would negatively impact 3rd grade ELA CRT proficiency rates, yet proficiency rates are slowly trending upward. The graph below shows the percent change in K-3 Literacy funding, 3rd grade student enrollment, 3rd grade Hispanic/Latino enrollment, and CRT ELA percent proficient.