

# Amana Academy

State of the School Address

August 13, 2008



# Introductions

- Board Members
- Administration
- Staff Members
- PTA Executive Board



# Current Enrollments

- Estimated approximately 450 students total by ten day count
- Full currently in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>



# What is a Charter School?

- Free and public education
- Unique blend of autonomy and accountability
- Freedom in curriculum, instruction, and allocation of funds
- Smaller school size
- More diversity
- More individual attention
- Higher Parental Involvement
- More shared leadership and decision making



# How Far We Have Come

- **SACS Accreditation** (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools)
  - Awarded June 25, 2008
  - Expires on June 30, 2013
  - Must meet SACS high standards, be evaluated by a team of professionals from outside the school, and implement a continuous process of improvement
  - Must engage in tasks required of all schools to maintain accreditation and recertify every 5 years
  - Demonstrates continuous commitment to quality and the success of all students
  - To learn more please visit [www.advanc-ed.org](http://www.advanc-ed.org)



# How Far We Have Come

- **Grants and Awards**

- \$140,000 State of Georgia Facility Grant
- \$5,000 Broadcom Grant for technology
- \$2,500 Captain Planet Grants for Garden of Change Project (Outdoor Classroom)
- \$2,000 Best Buy Award for Community Circle sound system
- \$1,230 National Archery in the Schools Grant for archery equipment
- \$1,000 Weyerhaeuser Award for environmental resources and indoor composting systems
- \$500 Interface for an indoor GrowLab
- \$500 Keep Georgia Beautiful 1<sup>st</sup> Place Youth Clean Community Challenge to further litter prevention efforts
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Recycling Challenge Award
- Elementary Arabic students achieve Superior ratings at State competition



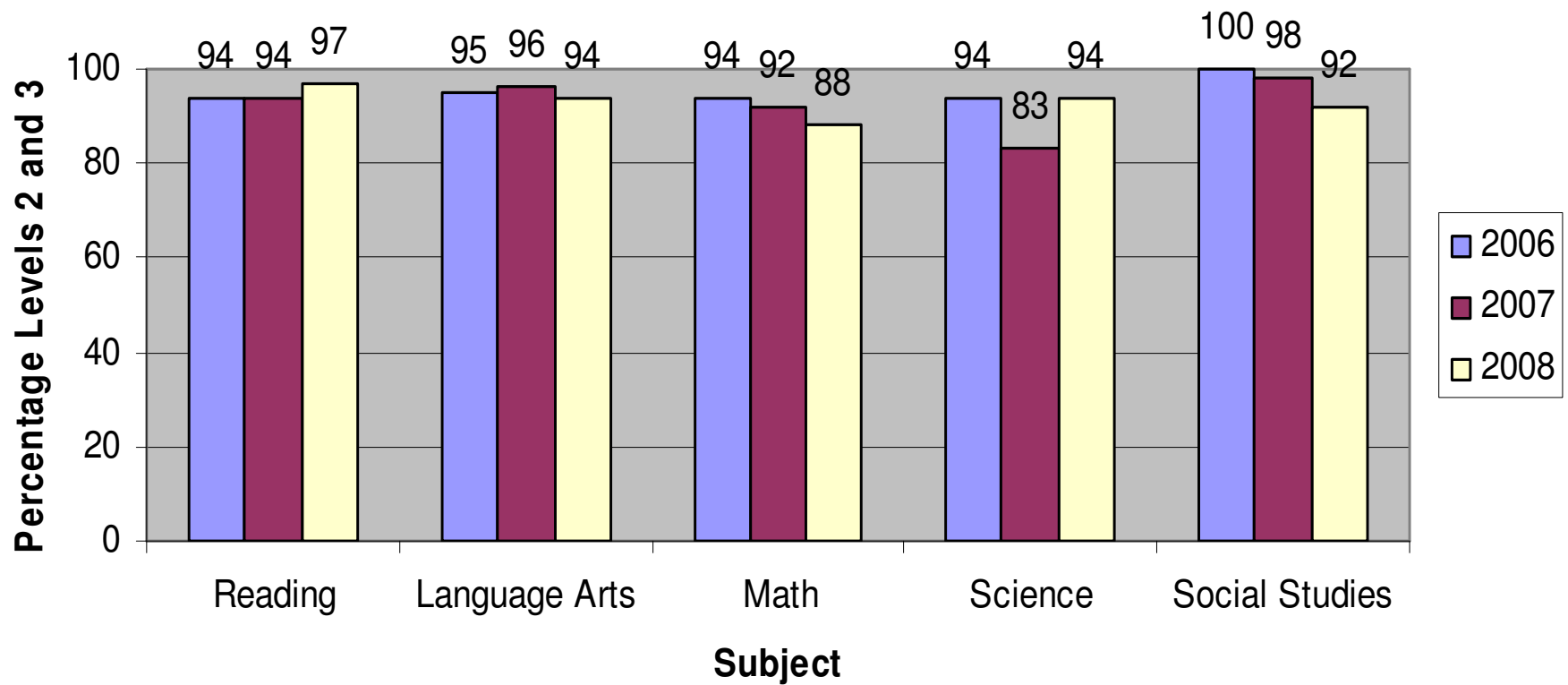
# How Far We Have Come

- First 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduating class
- Addition of over 100 new students
- Facility move
- Doubling of staff
- Establishment of PTA



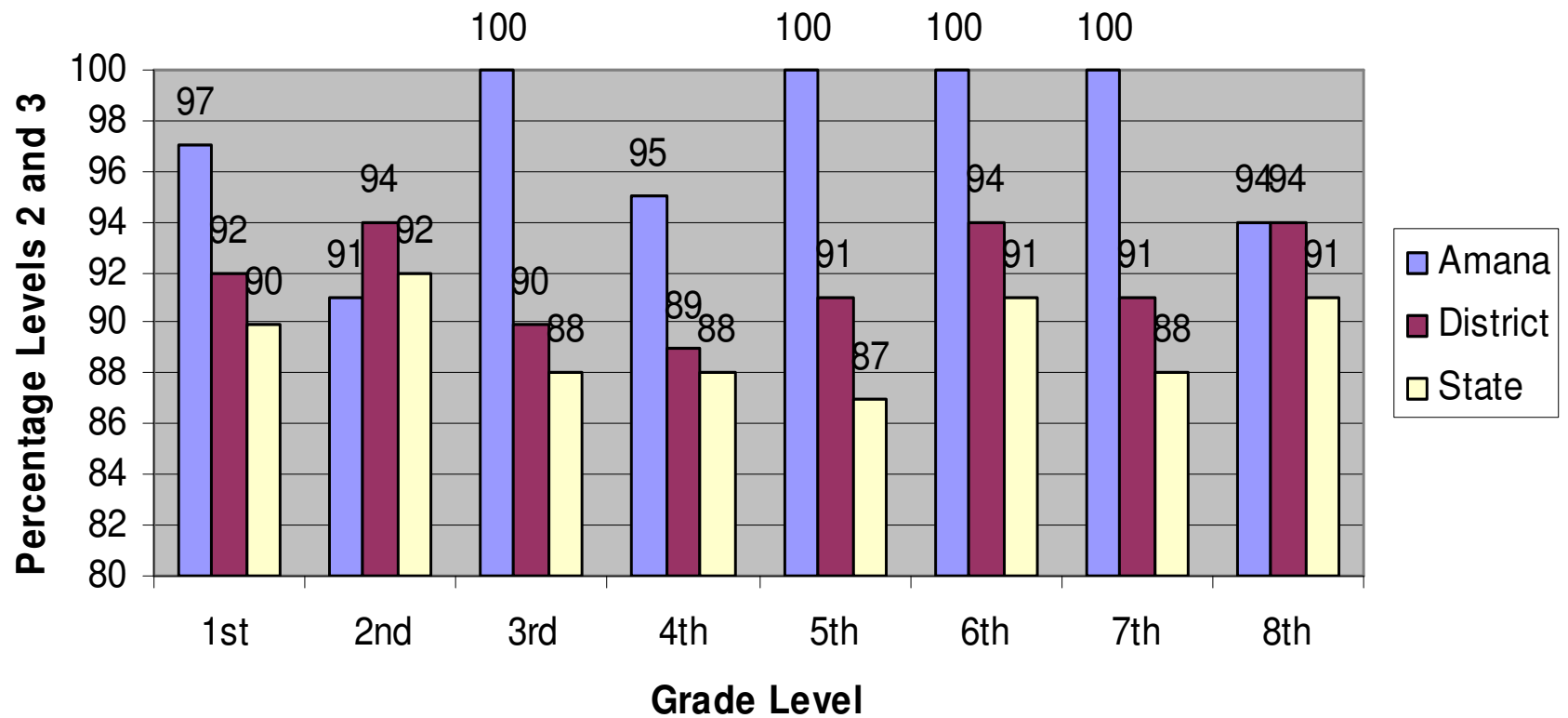
# High Academic Achievement

## CRCT Yearly Comparison



# High Academic Achievement Reading

## Spring 2008 CRCT Comparison - Reading

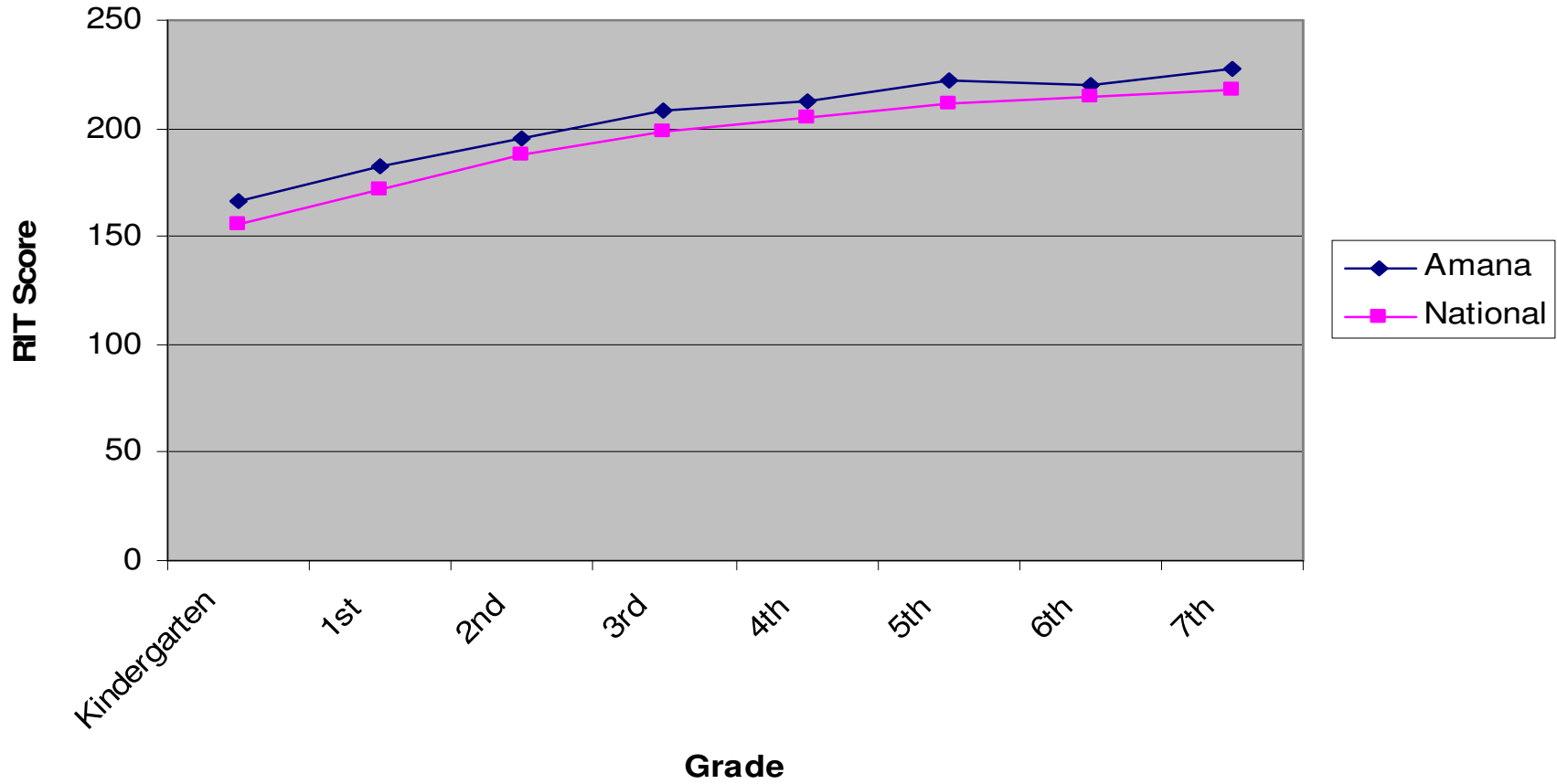


# High Academic Achievement Reading

		Vocabulary	Comprehension	
1st	GPS	86	84	
2nd	GPS	89	84	
		Literary Comprehension	Reading for Information	Reading Skills & Vocab Acquisition
3rd	GPS	81	74	80
			Information & Media Literacy	
4th	GPS	78	76	79
5th	GPS	80	79	85
6th	GPS	80	78	83
7th	GPS	83	84	76
8th	GPS	75	75	82

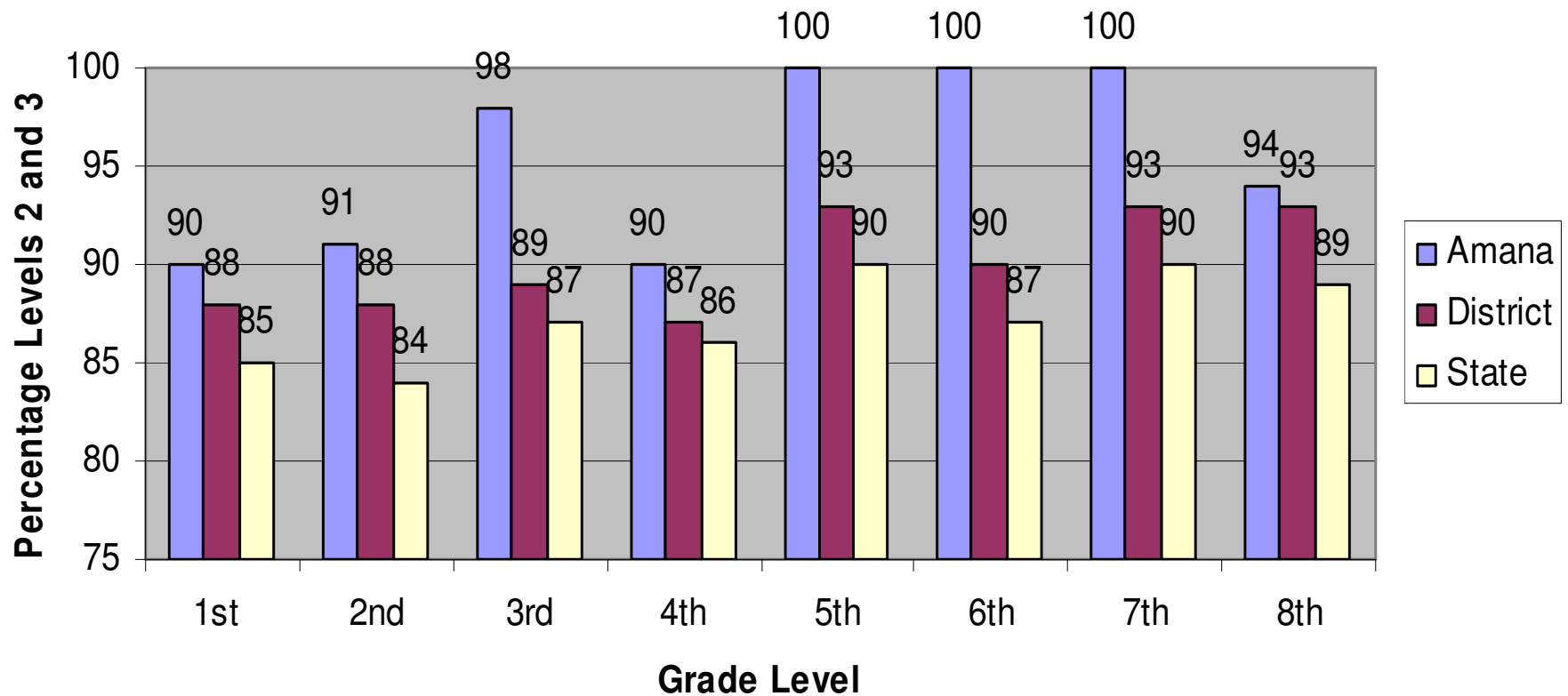
# High Academic Achievement

## MAPS Spring 2008 Reading



# High Academic Achievement Language Arts

## Spring 2008 CRCT Comparison - Language Arts

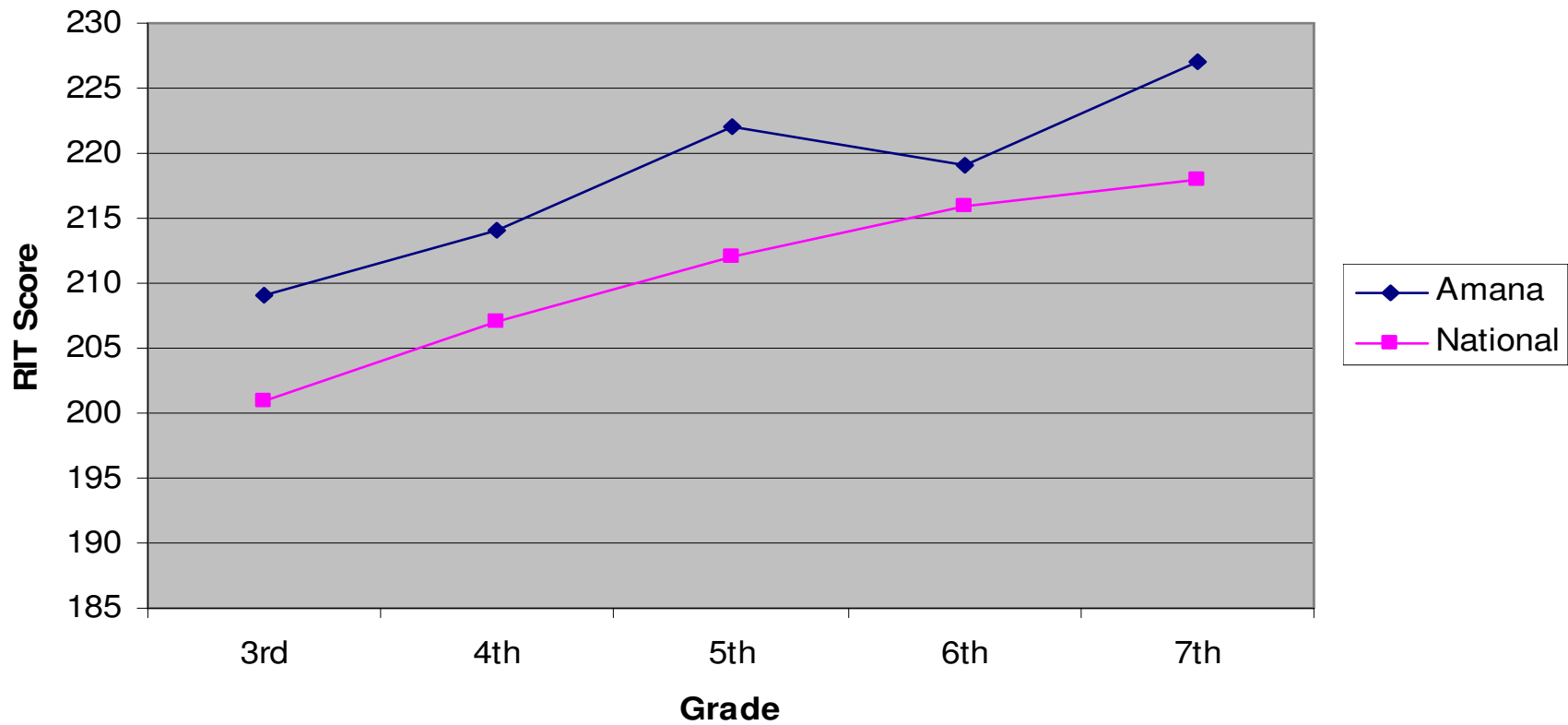


# High Academic Achievement Language Arts

		<b>Grammar, Phon., &amp; Phon. Aware.</b>	<b>Sentence Construction</b>	<b>Research</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	GPS	78	80	77
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	GPS	79	83	85
		<b>Grammar &amp; Sent. Const.</b>	<b>Research &amp; Writing Process</b>	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	GPS	83	82	
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	GPS	79	81	
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	GPS	76	87	
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	GPS	75	84	
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	GPS	83	81	
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	GPS	72	83	

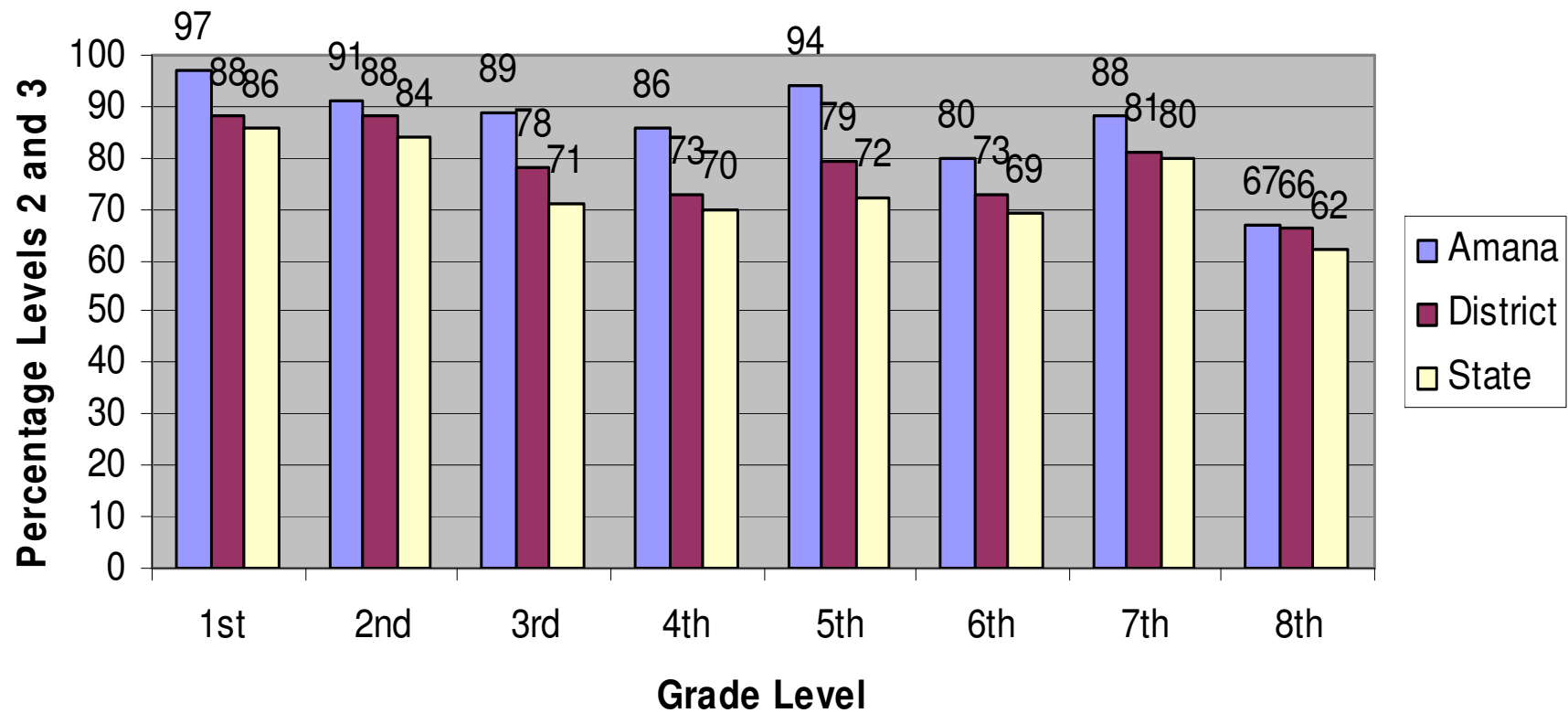
# High Academic Achievement

## MAPS Spring 2008 Language



# High Academic Achievement Mathematics

## Spring 2008 CRCT Comparison - Math

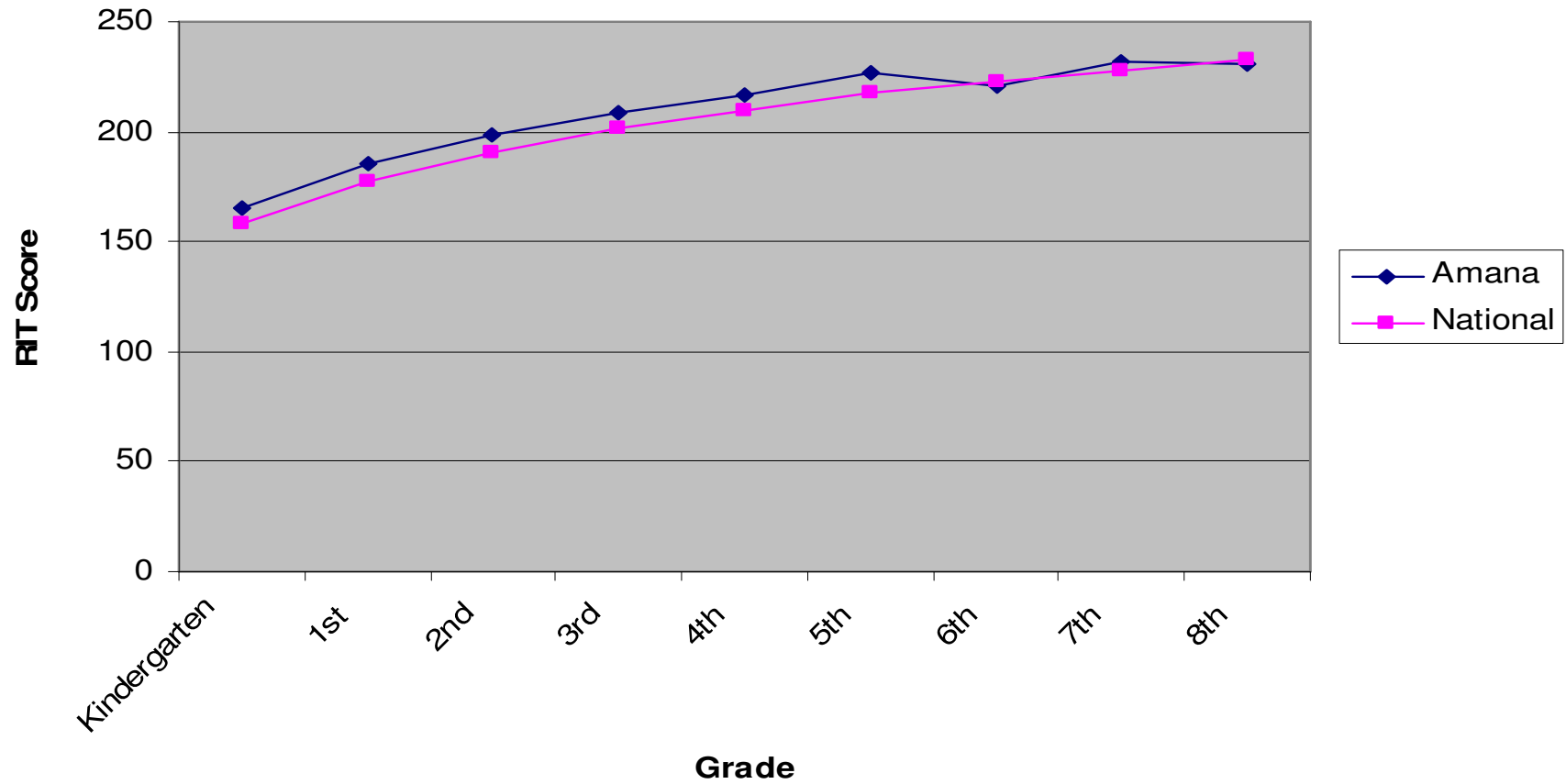


# High Academic Achievement Mathematics

		Number & Operations	Measurement	Geometry	Data Analysis & Probability	Algebra
1st	GPS	85	78	90	89	
2nd	GPS	80	82	82	74	
3rd	GPS	80	81	70	79	74
4th	GPS	70	78	72	83	85
5th	GPS	75	70	68	89	77
6th	GPS	56	38	63	72	64
		Number & Operations	Geometry	Algebra	Data Analysis & Probability	
7th	GPS	71	68	72	70	
8th	GPS	76	54	48	72	

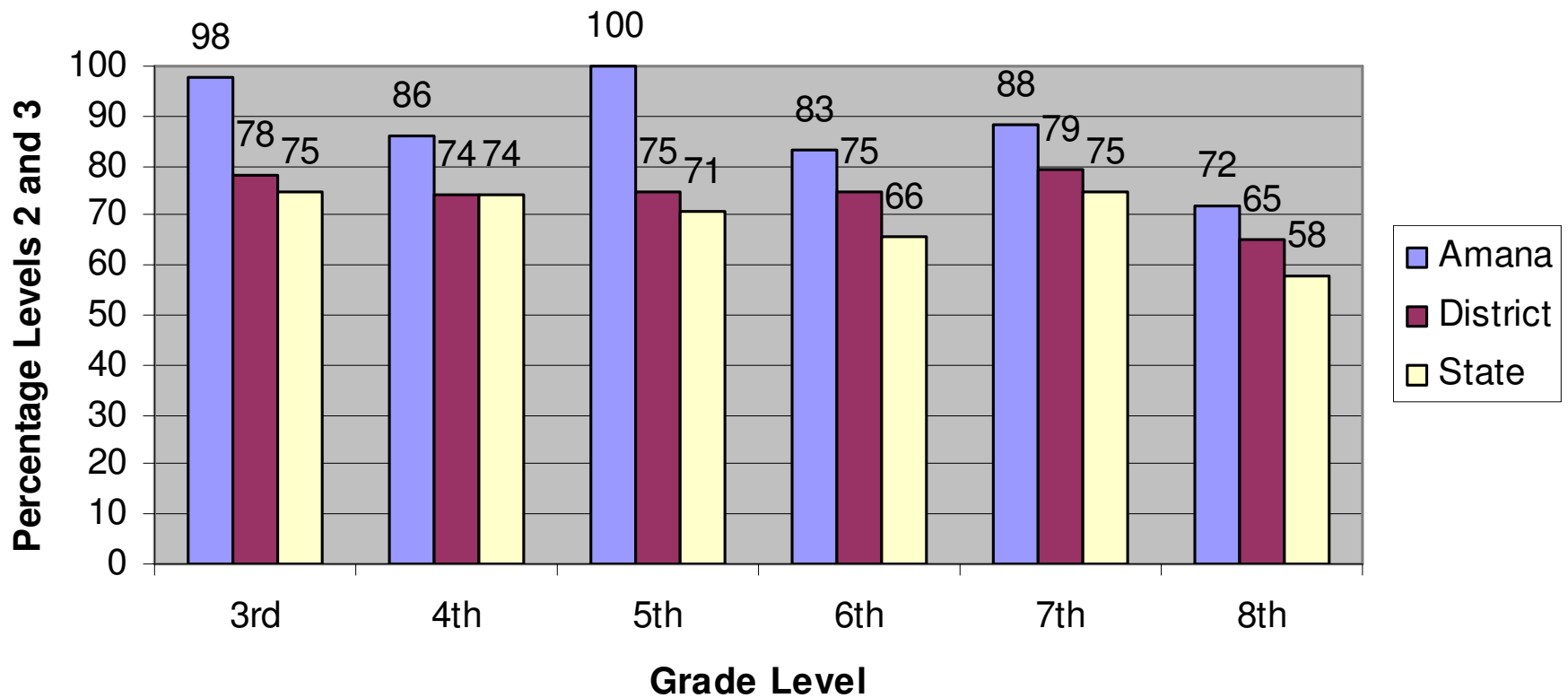
# High Academic Achievement

MAPS Spring 2008 Math



# High Academic Achievement Science

Spring 2008 CRCT Comparison - Science



# High Academic Achievement Science

		Earth	Life	Physical
3rd	GPS	78	79	82
4th	GPS	76	76	82
5th	GPS	82	84	73
		Geology	Hydrology & Meteorology	Astronomy
6th	GPS	65	57	71
		Cells & Genetics	Interdependence of Life	Evolution
7th	GPS	76	71	82
		Structure of Matter	Force and Motion	Energy
8th	GPS	55	72	57

# High Academic Achievement Social Studies

		Geography	History	Economics	Civics	Core Skills
3rd	QCC	76	76	69	82	83
4th	QCC	72	69	60	76	80
5th	QCC	75	78	84	78	81
6th	GPS					
7th	GPS					
8th	GPS	65	61	64	47	



# High Academic Achievement

- Addition of Resources
  - GPS aligned Science textbooks (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)
  - Social Studies textbooks and journals (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)
  - Scholastic leveled reading texts (K-6<sup>th</sup>)
  - Rigby leveled texts (K-3<sup>rd</sup>)
  - Math manipulatives



# High Academic Achievement

- Middle School Changes
  - Team taught Math
  - Intervention program
  - Gender separate 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades



# High Academic Achievement

- Math Flexible Grouping
- Intervention Program
- More Field Studies



# Strong Communicators

- Community Circle Changes
  - Split Elementary and Middle School
  - Every other week
  - Focus on high quality showcase of learning and presentation skills



# Strong Communicators

- 6 + 1 Traits Writing Framework
  - Vertical alignment
  - Grammar, editing and vocabulary framework
  - Focused staff development



# Arabic

- FLAP Grant Application (in process)
  - Foreign Language Assistance Program
  - Federal Department of Education – sponsored
  - Between \$200,000-\$300,000 annually for five years
  - 8 schools out of 136 nationally were selected to received in 2008
  - K-16 language program
  - Partnership with North Georgia College and University



# Arabic

- New resources (textbooks for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades)
- Multi-media resources (K-8<sup>th</sup>)
- Arabic team as presenters (State, Regional, and National levels)
- Focused staff development (Concordia College Foreign Language Teaching Program)
- Curriculum Development



# Ethical Character

- Tribes training
- Clubs and Crews
- Awards and Recognition Programs
- Middle School
  - Advisory
  - Arrival and Dismissal
  - National Junior Honor Society



# Environmental and Civic Responsibility

- Outdoor Classroom
- Waste-free Lunch
- Recycling
- Earth Day Celebration
- Service Learning
  - Hands on Atlanta
  - CNC
  - Cities of Roswell and Alpharetta



# Charter Renewal

- Amana Academy original charter was approved in 2004
- Renewal is for 2009-2014 school years
- Petition for renewal has been submitted to the district



# Charter Renewal Process and Timeline

- August 11, 2008 – submission of charter renewal petition to Fulton County, only school to fully make it through the compliance review
- September – October 2008 - Review of renewal by Fulton County staff and Board members
- October 16, 2008 - Fulton County Board vote on Charter Renewal
- November 2008 - Charter renewal sent to the state
- November – December 2008 – Review of renewal by Georgia State Board of Education
- December 2008 - Georgia State Board of Education vote on charter renewal



# What can you do to help?

- Attend Amana Academy Board meetings
  - Once a month, calendar on the website
- Attend Fulton County Community Meetings
  - Each Board member hosts in her district
  - Once a month, calendar on Fulton County Website
- Attend Fulton County Work Sessions
  - Once a month week before Board Meetings on Tuesday, calendar on Fulton County website
- Attend Fulton County Board Meetings
  - Once a month, usually on Thursday night, usually at Dunwoody Springs Charter Elementary School
- Continue to highlight Amana accomplishments in the community

