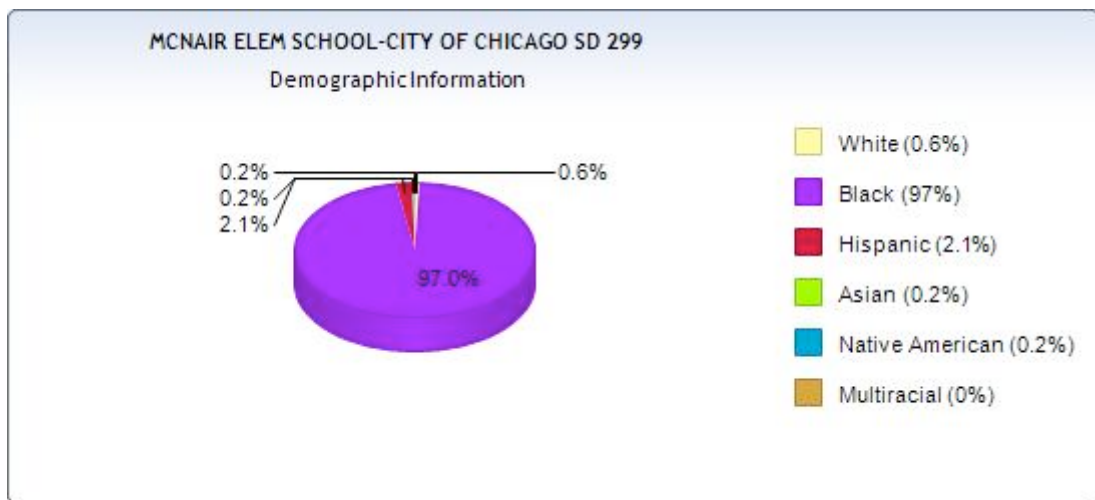


## McNair Elementary 2011-2012 IPAD Project

In the 2011/2012 school year, three special education classrooms at McNair received a grant to use iPads in their classrooms. The teachers received training and then set out to enrich instruction with the use of the iPads. McNair Elementary is a school within the Chicago Public Schools system. It is located in the west side of Chicago in a high poverty area with 99.1% of the students eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch program (Low Income Households). There are 450 students in the school divided into 21 regular education classes.



The attendance rate is 92.7%. I am currently a Special Education teacher in a self-contained classroom with 11 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. The data that was gathered for this project was from my Special Ed classroom. The purpose of the iPads is to improve student motivation. For example, one fourth grade student was tested in the beginning of the 2011 school year and had scores of 1914 reading, 1700 math, and 1693 Science. When the same student was tested at

the beginning of the second semester, and after having effectively utilized an iPad for his instructional classes, his scores improved to 2497 Reading, 2380 Math, and 2430 Science. As you can see by these improved scores, the student made significant gains in all subject areas. The teacher in this classroom utilized the Achieve 3000 program, along with other iPad instructional applications on a daily basis with the students. In addition, the iPad offers the capability to address identified IEP needs of the students. For example, if a student's IEP identified an accommodation for content to be read, the Achieve 3000 program for iPads has an application that allows stories and questions to be read aloud to students through the use of headphones. The use of iPads in the three classrooms at McNair this past year enlightened the teachers as to how technology motivates students to be more engaged in learning. The teachers also used iPads as an incentive for the students, and the students responded favorably. There was a marked improvement in student attitudes as well as achievement. Currently 99% of students at McNair Academic Center receive free or reduced lunch; so many students do not have sufficient access to technology in their home environment. iPads have introduced much-needed technology to them and broaden their worlds.

McNair Academic Center believes that using research based relevant applications on the iPad in math, reading, science, and social science will greatly improve the current curriculum and student outcomes. Students at McNair can sometimes be hard to motivate and difficult to keep engaged. The iPads have greatly improved motivation by giving students what only iPads can give: immediate feed back, motivation, age appropriate programs, addressing multiple intelligences, incorporating technology and up to date information. We used the iPads throughout the day as a support and a accelerant to learning. iPads will not be used as a time

waster or gaming opportunity. They are used through out the building as a important part of daily instruction. They have become a intricate and essential part of the students' daily curriculum. The students at McNair need this enrichment to the daily curriculum to continue to see gains and to increase those gains by enriching the curriculum the way that only technology can. The vast opportunities that iPads have bring to a students learning environment is something that the students at McNair not only deserve but will benefit from tremendously.