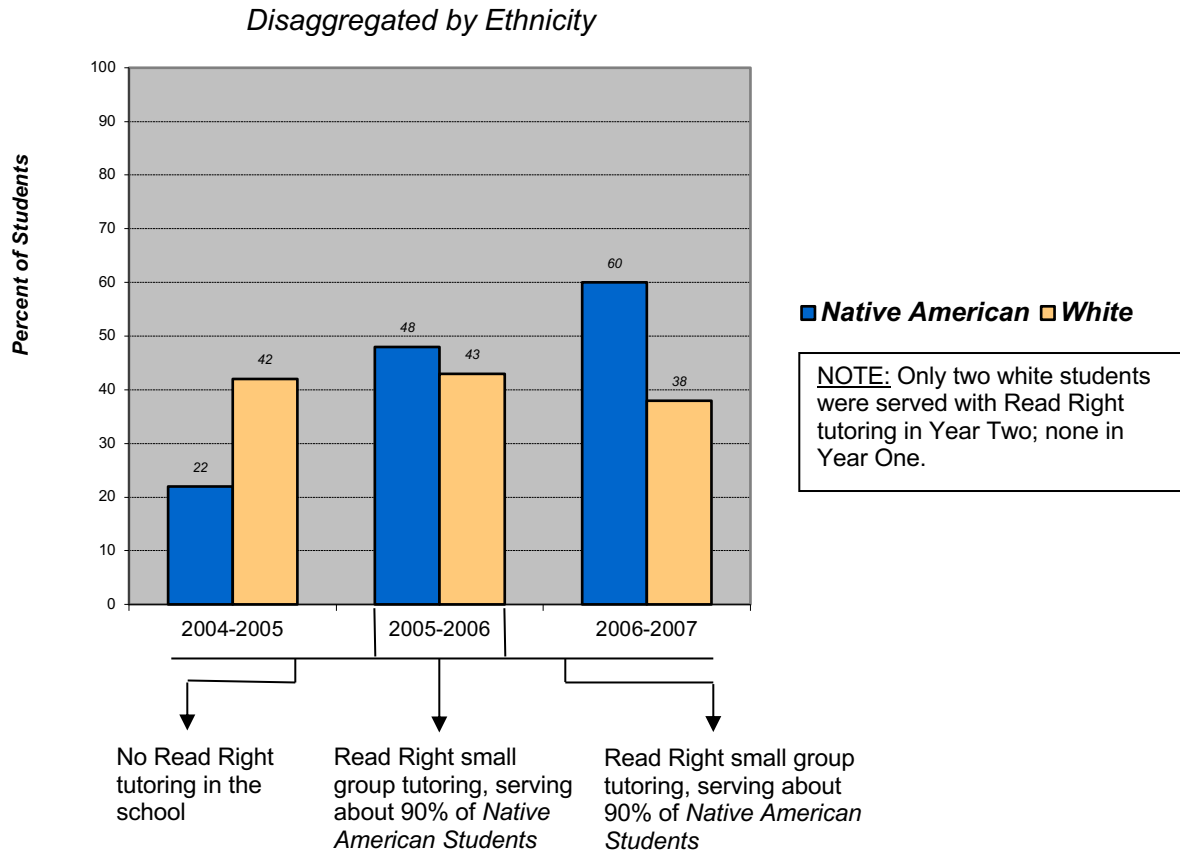


## Alternative High School in Washington State

Percentage of Students Meeting Standard on the Reading Portion of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) Tenth Grade Test



## Using Read Right as a tool to Close the Achievement Gap

The Kalispel Tribe of Indians funded a Read Right small group tutoring project to be established in Havermale High School in Spokane, Washington. The Tribe stipulated that Native students be given priority for participation, and they occupied almost all of the tutoring slots. The project started in the spring of the year, after the tenth grade Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) had been administered for the 2004-2005 school year. As is shown in the graph above, there was a significant achievement gap in favor of the whites on the reading portion of the test (42% vs. 22% meeting standard). After just one year of participation in the Read Right small group tutoring program, the achievement gap was reversed—48% of Natives meeting standard and 43% of whites. (The cohorts aren't identical from year to year, but there is a large overlap. Students have to meet standard on the test to graduate from high school. If they don't succeed when they first take it in tenth grade, they take it again in 11<sup>th</sup> and again in 12<sup>th</sup> if they need to.) The results from 2006-2007 show the Native students outperforming the white students and widening the achievement gap in their favor (60% vs. 38% meeting standard). In 2007-2008, the program was expanded to serve more white students.