

CASE STUDY

Closing Literacy Gaps Through Targeted Intervention in Maryland



Overview



In the face of challenges, including high poverty and historically low literacy rates, one K-5 public school in Maryland has experienced a profound turnaround thanks to Really Great Reading's Blast 1st Grade Reading Program.

This success story not only highlights the potential for meaningful change in challenging educational environments but also serves as an inspiring example of how targeted, effective interventions can make a profound difference in students' lives.

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Background: A historically low performing public school serving grades PK–5 has consistently faced challenges in literacy, ranking in the bottom 30% of Maryland elementary schools with particularly low performance on MCAP assessments.

Despite these challenges, the implementation of Really Great Reading's Blast 1st Grade Reading Program has sparked incredible results.

Implementation: At the beginning of the year 84% of the first-grade students at this school were at risk for reading failure, scoring in the red (well below benchmark) according to the DIBELS composite score.

The DIBELS Composite Score combines multiple DIBELS scores to provide the best overall estimate of a student's reading proficiency.

Results: By May 2024, the percentage of students at risk (red) dropped from 84% to 19%, while those who were at or above benchmark (blue) grew from 11% to 67%. The program not only reduced the number of students in the red but also significantly increased the number of students meeting or exceeding benchmarks.

Impact on Teachers: The success of the HD Word program also had a profound impact on teachers. Their knowledge and skills in teaching reading grew, and they were inspired by the noticeable progress in their students. This enthusiasm and confidence encouraged the continued implementation of the program, fostering a positive and proactive educational environment.

Data from Maryland Public Schools:

Conclusion: The success story of this school demonstrates the transformative power of Really Great Reading's Blast program in improving literacy skills and providing students with the foundation they need for future academic success.

Students At or Above Benchmark

