

INDEPENDENT IMPACT STUDY

66% Decrease in Special Education Referrals in Luling (TX) Schools Using Voyager Passport™

Implementation Objectives

In the 2004-2005 school year, Luling Independent School District implemented a literacy initiative to provide targeted reading intervention for low-performing students using programs from Voyager Expanded Learning. Through their *Reading First* grant, Luling chose Voyager Passport™, for kindergarten through third grade students throughout the district to increase student proficiency and reduce referrals to special education. During the 2005-2006 school year, the district expanded the implementation to grades K-3 with regular education and special education students.

To improve student achievement and decrease the number of special education referrals, the partnership between Voyager and the district emphasized:

- A strategy to ensure a successful implementation of the reading intervention programs with all students, including special education students
- Built-in progress monitoring and assessment
- Comprehensive launch training with all teachers
- Integrated, ongoing professional development
- Ongoing implementation support, including site visits, website, email, and phone support

Methodology

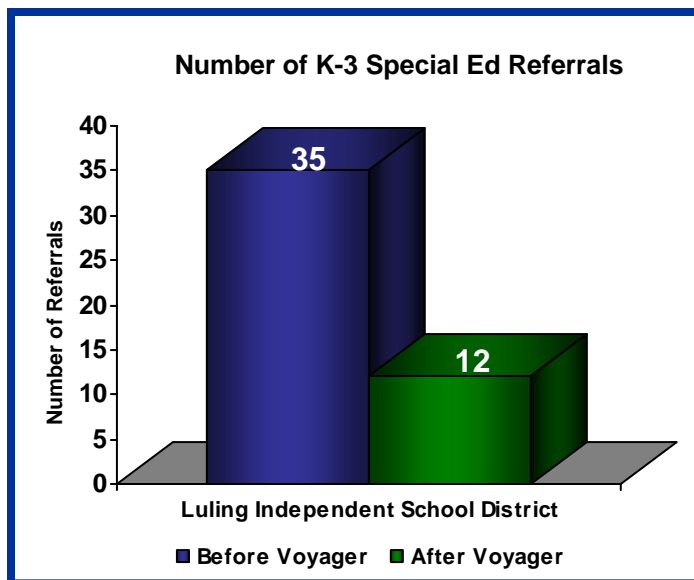
The number of K-3 students referred for special education after implementing Voyager Passport was compared with the number of students referred before Voyager.

Findings

More than 500 students were assessed to determine if they were at risk in reading. Of these students, 435 were selected to receive Voyager Passport.

Historically, nine percent, or 35, of these students would have been referred to special education. After Voyager, only four-percent, or 12 students, were referred. This is a 66-percent decrease in the number of students referred for special education services.

Luling continues to use Voyager Passport with both regular ed and special ed K-3 students as well as Voyager's Extended Day Reading Intervention and TimeWarp™ Plus Summer Intervention.



PROFILE

School Year: 2004-2005, 2005-2006

Location: Luling, Texas

District: Luling Independent School District

Grade Level: K-3

Voyager Program: Voyager Passport™

Assessment Tool: Special Education Referral Rates

Demographic Data:

51% Hispanic

39% Caucasian

9% African American

1% Other

64% of students eligible for free or reduced lunch

KEY FINDINGS

After 26-weeks in Voyager Passport:

- The number of K-3 students referred to special education decreased from 35 students to 12.
- This is a 66-percent decrease in the number of students referred for special education services.

“It’s very exciting to see these kids succeeding; they are doing amazingly well.”

– Debora Ribble, Kindergarten and First-grade Reading Coach, Luling Independent School District

