

INDEPENDENT IMPACT STUDY

Special-Education Third-Graders at Oxford Elementary (AL) Make Significant Fluency Gains

Implementation Objectives

Oxford Elementary School in Oxford, Alabama needed an intensive reading intervention program that would address the needs of its special education students. To ensure all special education students were provided with intensive reading intervention instruction, Oxford Elementary implemented the Voyager Passport™ program.

In order to improve student reading skills and performance, the partnership between Voyager and Oxford Elementary emphasized:

- A strategy to ensure special education students acquire key reading skills
- Built-in progress monitoring and assessment
- Comprehensive launch training with all teachers
- A Literacy Implementation Specialist to oversee the implementation
- Integrated, ongoing professional development
- Ongoing implementation support including site visits, web site, email, and phone support.

Methodology

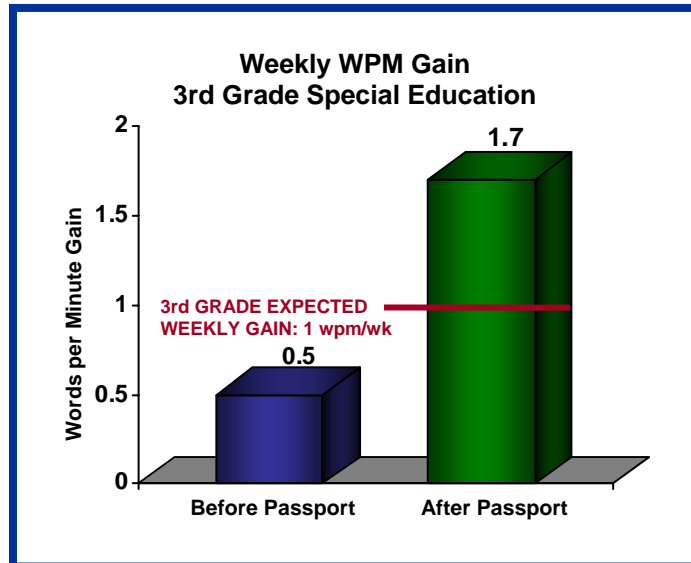
Using DIBELS™ Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) measure, the weekly reading fluency growth of Oxford's third grade special education students was measured before and after Voyager Passport, and compared to the expected weekly fluency gain for second grade students.

Findings

Before Passport, Oxford's special education third-graders were learning to read 0.5 words per minute per week, half the expected gain for third grade students.

After Passport, these students more than doubled their weekly reading gain to 1.7 words per minute per week.

Oxford Elementary is in its second year using Voyager Passport in grades K-6.



PROFILE

School Year: 2004-2005

Location: Oxford, Alabama

School: Oxford Elementary School

District: Oxford City Schools

Grade Level: 3rd Grade

Number of Students: 12

Voyager Program: Voyager Passport™

Assessment Tool: DIBELS™

(Dynamic Indicators of Basic and Early Literacy Skills)

Demographic Data:

75% Caucasian

19% African American

5% Hispanic

1% Asian

41% of students eligible for free or reduced lunch

KEY FINDINGS

- Special-ed third-graders more than doubled their reading fluency gain to 1.7 wpm/wk after one year in Voyager Passport.
- This is nearly twice the expected gain of 1 word per minute per week.

“The Voyager Passport program is the most comprehensive program I have ever seen. I have seen tremendous growth in all of my students.”

– Kim Wagner, Special Education Teacher, Oxford Elementary

