

Results: Bethlehem Area Schools Make Stunning Strides in Reading

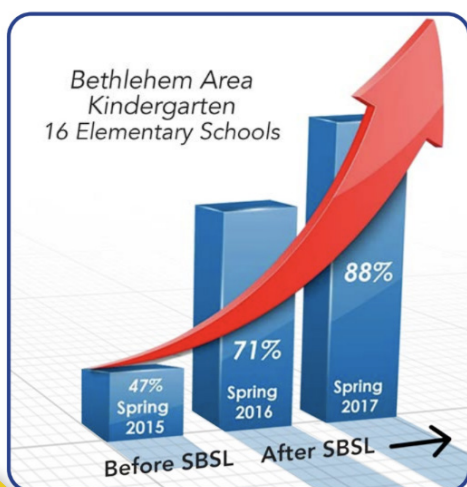
Kindergarten benchmarks increase from 47% to 88% in just two years

Bethlehem Area School District (BASD), the sixth largest in Pennsylvania, needed help improving literacy skills and closing the achievement gap for Lincoln Elementary, a Title I Focus School.

Using evidence-based methodology, the team at Step By Step Learning® (SBSL) partnered with leaders to implement programs to improve teacher effectiveness and student performance for at-risk children. The first step at Lincoln Elementary was to design and implement a data review process. Our team worked with the school to collect, analyze, evaluate, and interpret student data to identify students at risk for reading failure.

Teachers were provided instruction on how to apply the research behind the science of reading using structured literacy techniques to promote more academic learning time. The results were immediate, with 90% of kindergarten students meeting the end-of-year benchmark goals, up from 54% in years prior.

Administrators at BASD were so impressed with the results at Lincoln Elementary that they asked SBSL to return the following year to work with all 16 of the district's elementary schools. In close partnership, the team launched a systems and processes audit (Gap Analysis) and focused on building a collaborative culture to help shape the future state. In just two years, BASD's kindergarten benchmarks increased from 47% to 88%.



Kim Harper, supervisor of curriculum instruction and assessment at BASD, said the combination SBSL provides of knowledge and modeling/coaching is what makes the difference for teachers. Harper said,

“We had teachers tell us, ‘Oh, we already had that training,’ but they didn’t have the component of how it translates to the classroom. It’s the combination. You need both.”

Thanks to the comprehensive MTSS process implemented by SBSL, BASD soared to an unprecedented level of achievement, with student success at the helm.



Bringing all the pieces together for academic improvement

SBSL works with K-3rd grade teachers to increase their knowledge and understanding of the science of reading and how they can best collect, interpret, and understand student data. Teachers also benefit from customized lesson plans and classroom engagement techniques, as well as frequent in-person, side-by-side follow-up support, including:



With nearly 20 years of in-classroom experience with teachers, our company is recognized as the preeminent educational and literacy organization in the nation, helping districts achieve positive and sustainable results which benefit every child.



Listen to BASD's feature on APM Reports "Hard Words" podcast here.



If you are ready to implement a comprehensive MTSS process that significantly raises achievement for ALL students, contact Step By Step Learning® at info@sbsl.org or 610-398-1231.