



How Prince George's County reduced reading failure by 65% in one year

A focused structured literacy intervention model helped struggling readers strengthen foundational skills, increase benchmark performance, and build reading confidence.

DISTRICT Prince George's County SD, Maryland	SCHOOLS 209	TEACHERS 8,954	STUDENTS 132,854
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65%

reduced risk for reading failure in one year

56%

students meeting benchmark expectations

67%

of students met benchmark expectations by spring

THE CHALLENGE

Most first-grade students entered the school year significantly below benchmark expectations, placing them at risk for long-term reading difficulties.

Teachers needed a more structured approach to help students build foundational literacy skills and regain confidence as readers.

- ✦ No consistent district-wide literacy approach
- ✦ Students struggled with foundational literacy and decoding skills
- ✦ Reading achievement remained historically low
- ✦ Teachers needed a more effective intervention approach

WHAT PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DID

Science of Reading Alignment

Teachers implemented explicit structured literacy routines focused on decoding, phonemic awareness, and foundational skills instruction for first-grade readers.

Professional Learning & Support

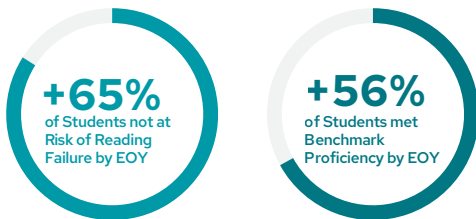
Teachers received training and instructional support that strengthened lesson delivery, renewed enthusiasm for teaching reading, and increased confidence in student growth.

Data Visibility & Implementation

DIBELS benchmark data identified students at risk for reading failure, guided intervention decisions, and helped educators monitor literacy growth across the school year.

By the end of the school year, the percentage of students at risk for reading failure dropped from 84% to 19%, while benchmark performance increased from 11% to 67%

READING OUTCOMES BEFORE AND AFTER



KEY OUTCOMES

- ✦ Risk for reading failure dropped from 84% to 19% in one year
- ✦ Benchmark proficiency increased from 11% to 67% across Grade 1 students
- ✦ Teachers strengthened confidence in evidence-based literacy instruction
- ✦ Students built stronger decoding and foundational reading skills