



How Seneca strengthened kindergarten decoding skills by 83%

A districtwide literacy approach strengthened decoding growth, improved instructional consistency, and embedded foundational skills instruction into daily routines.

DISTRICT
Seneca Area SD, Wisconsin

SCHOOLS
3

TEACHERS
21

STUDENTS
255

83%

growth in kindergarten decoding skills

20%

growth in kindergarten phonemic awareness

14%

increase in fifth-grade decoding scores

THE CHALLENGE

District leaders identified persistent decoding and fluency gaps across grades K–5 despite strong relationships, personalized learning, and small class sizes.

Without a consistent Tier 1 structured literacy approach, many students were not developing the foundational reading skills, decoding accuracy, and fluency needed to meet grade-level literacy expectations.

- ✦ Decoding and fluency gaps persisted across grade levels
- ✦ Tier 1 phonics instruction lacked consistency
- ✦ Intervention support varied across classrooms
- ✦ Students needed stronger foundational literacy instruction

WHAT SENECA DID

Science of Reading Alignment

Seneca Area SD implemented structured literacy routines across K–5 classrooms to strengthen phonics, decoding, and foundational reading instruction.

Professional Learning & Support

Teachers received ongoing support and professional learning that strengthened instructional consistency and classroom implementation.

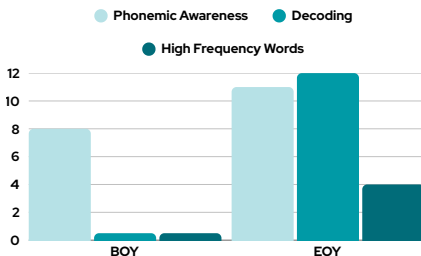
Data Visibility & Implementation

The district used diagnostic data and shared instructional routines to guide intervention decisions and strengthen literacy alignment across grades.

“We have a distinct line in our data. The group that [used RGR] in first grade is consistently performing stronger – their spelling scores are higher, and they have the confidence to explain the ‘why’ behind their reading.”

– Kelsey Kleven, Reading Specialist & Interventionist, Seneca Area School District

KINDERGARTEN FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS GROWTH



KEY OUTCOMES

- ✦ Kindergarten decoding skills increased by 83% across the school year
- ✦ Kindergarten phonemic awareness increased by 20% from BOY to EOY
- ✦ Fifth-grade decoding skills increased by 14%
- ✦ Daily structured literacy instruction strengthened consistency across K–5 classrooms