
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FROM: DR. STEVE PEGRAM, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
USD 434-SANTA FE TRAIL

SUBJECT: LEXIA READING

DATE: MARCH 16, 2016

The Santa Fe Trail School District began using Lexia Reading in August of 2015, this school year. The district was not an early adopter when it came to implementing this program due for numerous reasons. The decision to implement the program centered on the need to provide our students with a more phonics based learning experiences and the success being reported from other school districts using Lexia Reading. After having professional staff visit a couple of other school districts and visiting with their professional staff's, as well as observing students using the Lexia Reading program, it was decided to proceed with this implementation.

After grades K-5 finished the placement tests, the grade level professional staff was in shock. Our students were not very good readers as placed by Lexia Reading. In fact, we only had 2 students in the entire school district reading above grade level, according to Lexia Reading, and the majority of our students not at grade level.

After these placement test a couple of grade levels got serious and really began providing the minutes needed by the students as recommended by Lexia Reading, along with promoting and encouraging the students to the importance of reading. This along with reporting the Lexia Reading Data, to all grade levels of the district, on a weekly basis, this provided the motivation to insure that students received the minutes they needed to begin advancing in their reading.

What I really like about this program is the data it provides for the staff, students, parents, and myself. The staff knows on what level their students are on and what issues their students their having. Lexia Reading also provides individual lessons for the students to work on should they begin struggling with a concept. This allows the professional staff the opportunity to intervene and provide direct instruction on precisely the specific issue the student is struggling with.

As for the students, they know where they are at in the program, they know how many levels they have passed and they are able to communicate this with their friends, teacher and even myself. There isn't a day now that I don't visit with students about their Lexia Reading Level. Believe me, these students are proud of their accomplishments and can tell you what they are having issues with.

When it comes to parents, they are really happy with this program. The program also has exceptional, easy to read parent reports. The show where their child started and where their child currently is and what standards their child has completed and the specific areas they are currently working on.

Parents have shared with me they now have to limit the amount of time their students can be on Lexia Reading at home due to that's all the their child wants to do. They have reported they hear their children yelling at the program when they miss a question and of issues with sibling rivalry when one or another gets ahead of the other in their advancement in the program.

As for myself, Lexia Reading provides me with the data I need to be able to interact with building administration and professional staff as to what is going on in the classroom in the area of reading. I can ask about whether or not students are meeting the number of minutes they need, visit about students not progressing, and those that are. As I mentioned, I communicate weekly with the staff regarding what I'm seeing with the data. This includes the number of levels passed the prior week, the number of students who have progressed to reading above grade level, how many students have completed the program, and provide them with their grade level growth chart.

To say that Lexia Reading has been a success would be an understatement! This program has changed the culture of these grade levels. We now have students, parents and professional staff talking about and developing an interest in reading. Where we only had 2 students reading above grade level we now have 205 students reading above their grade level. We currently have 3-2nd grade, 3-3rd grade, 29-4th grade, and 30-5th grade students who have completed this program. In the Lexia Reading world, this means all completers are at the 6th grade reading level.

Where I mentioned earlier the majority of our students were below grade level, I can now report that a majority of our students are in and now exceed their grade level. We are seeing 2 and 3 year documented student growth from many of our students. We are having success with students in special education improving their reading with many of them improving 1.5 years (they are all part of the grade level reports). All of this has happened in 3/4th of a school year! We still have approximately 9 more weeks of school where we hope to see more students advance and finish the Lexia Reading program.

As for the future of Lexia Reading in our school district? We have one more year where this program is free for the district to use. After 2017 school year, we don't know what we will use. I believe it would be our preference to continue on with Lexia Reading if that is an option for us. If not, we will have to find other options.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to visit with you about Lexia Reading and the success we've had using it in the Santa Fe Trail School District.