

K–3 Literacy Success Levels Soar in Ohio District After Educators Turn to Lexia LETRS

Niles City Schools (NCS) educators saw their K–3 literacy scores graded “D” on the State of Ohio report card. In an effort to strengthen evidence-based early literacy instruction, district leaders signed up as a pilot district with Lexia LETRS®.

Lexia LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) is a professional learning course for early childhood and elementary teachers and administrators from Lexia®, the Structured Literacy experts.



Why LETRS?

Only **49%** of teaching institutions effectively prepare teachers for literacy instruction. Lexia LETRS provides teachers with the deep knowledge to be literacy and language experts in the science of reading.

And LETRS meets OH HB 436 requirements!

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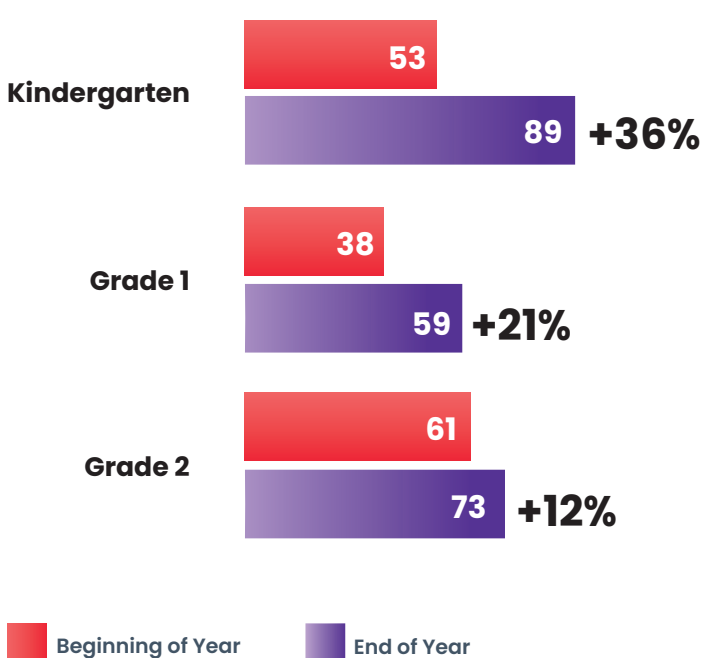
[LETRS] has brought an awareness, from kindergarten through third grade, that phonemic awareness has to be a priority in K–1, while those skills are still incorporated in grades 2–3. Teachers here are now focusing on phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension to assist struggling students depending on where student deficiencies may be.

— Antoinette (Toni) D’Urso, NCS Early Literacy Facilitator

Research shows student reading performance increases in schools where teachers have completed Lexia LETRS. For Niles City Schools, Lexia LETRS delivered results by the first school year.

D’Urso credits Lexia LETRS with equipping teachers to identify the source of reading difficulties and teach literacy more effectively. By the end of the first year, the district **rose to a “C”** grade for student literacy—a full grade of improvement—validating the district’s decision to join the pilot program.

Percent of Students Whose Benchmark Performance Improved With Lexia LETRS



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The instructional routines we have learned in our LETRS professional learning course have helped our students progress in a way that I have never seen in more than 20 years of teaching.

— Gina Coates, NCS Title 1 Instructor

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We’ve had positive feedback from teachers who said they thought they understood the science of how to teach reading, but because of participating in the LETRS literacy professional learning, they now really understand what is necessary to build strong readers who understand what has been read.

— Antoinette (Toni) D’Urso, NCS Early Literacy Facilitator

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Every day I look at my kids and say, ‘Oh my goodness, they can decode ANY word I give them!’ LETRS was the missing link. It’s exciting!

— Gina Coates, NCS Title 1 Instructor



Niles City Schools proves how an investment in teachers’ literacy knowledge and professional practice can pay off for a district.

See how Lexia LETRS can impact your district.

