



Lexia Reading Helps Accelerate Skills Development in Fayetteville RTI Model

“Lexia Reading is the reading software trifecta — it’s cost-effective, it provides data for point-in-time instruction, and it’s mobile, providing feedback that follows a student from grade to grade and building to building. All of these features converge to provide the most consistent individualized reading intervention a student needs to become a successful lifelong reader and learner.”

Kelly Brown
Literacy Improvement Coordinator
Fayetteville Public Schools

Priority One: Finding a Reading Program to Align to RTI Framework

Fayetteville Public Schools sought a reading intervention that aligned to its RTI framework while providing breadth of differentiated instruction to support all students—especially those in Tier II and Tier III.

“We needed a powerful instructional tool that has the breadth to serve a wide range of students, but was not ‘a one size fits all’ solution,” said Kelly Brown, Literacy Improvement Coordinator for the Fayetteville Public Schools. “We wanted a single program that could intensify and accelerate learning for struggling students, while offering the rest of the students targeted skills practice to help prevent and remediate reading difficulties. Lexia Reading stood out against its competitors.”

Lexia Reading is a technology-based system of differentiated practice, embedded assessment and targeted instruction, designed as an essential component of every reading curriculum. The scalable, research-proven approach provides educators norm-referenced measures that predict performance and prescribe instructional intensity to improve reading achievement. This system helps educators to prioritize the students who are the most at-risk, and provide them with targeted instructional activities to meet each student’s needs.

District Facts

Enrollment: 8,400
Elementary Schools: 9
Middle Schools: 3
Junior High Schools: 2
High Schools: 1
Student Population:
Caucasian – 73%
African American – 11%
Hispanic – 9%
Asian – 4%
American Indian – 1%
Multi-racial – 1.5%

Free/Reduced Lunch – 35%

Fast Results, High Usage, Rapid Expansion

Fayetteville began by implementing Lexia Reading in several elementary schools where the program was offered to the most at-risk students in grades K–2, providing them 30 minutes a day on the program, four days a week.

“After only twelve weeks, the staff reported gains across all the grade levels,” said Brown. “This was a very successful initial implementation, and we could quickly see the impact this program would have on the rest of our district.”

Based upon their early success with Lexia Reading, the district expanded its use of the program to third graders during summer school, and then quickly expanded the program to include 10 additional schools district-wide in the fall.

“We currently have nine elementary schools and three middle schools using this scalable, flexible system, benefiting 1,500 students in the district,” said Brown.

Brown credits a carefully planned rollout strategy as the reason the district has achieved remarkably high usage rates with the program. With 100 percent of students using the program, the Lexia Reading is driving systematic improvement.

Throughout the implementation, Brown spent time with the administrators and teachers at each school to help them understand the functionality and the benefits of using Lexia Reading and how it aligns with RTI. She shared with them how Lexia’s progress monitoring tools provide them real-time, assessment-quality data on student performance, without having to administer a test. They also received guidance on how the program identifies and prioritizes students for small group or individual instruction, and then provides a set of integrated, structured lesson plans to help educators address individual students’ particular skill gaps. Brown was confident that once the administrators and staff experienced Lexia’s integrated system of practice, assessment and instruction, they would more readily embrace its implementation.

“Too often, new technology solutions are given to educators without them understanding ‘why’ we are adding them to our toolkits. We made sure, with the help of the Lexia team, that our implementation was a collaborative effort. We haven’t experienced anything like this with any other vendor.”

According to Brown, the staff enthusiastically embraced Lexia as a tool to identify needs and differentiate instruction for each student.

“In the past, our teachers might know a student was a struggling reader based only on their experience or a gut-feeling or periodic test scores. But with Lexia’s embedded assessment functionality, teachers receive real-time student performance data without stopping the flow of

instruction. This gives them a streamlined way of making data-driven decisions and adjusting instruction to each student's needs."

At Holcomb Elementary School, math and literacy interventionist Beth Saferite noted how the program allowed her to focus on the students with the greatest need.

"I have been very pleased with the way Lexia pinpoints areas where students need additional instruction and makes it easy to print and provide Tier II and Tier III lessons," said Saferite. "I appreciate that the children are immediately able to work independently; they stay engaged, and can be closely monitored using the easy-to-use teacher reports."

Accelerates Skills Development for Older Students

Brown and the district's middle school educators have also been pleased with how the program has intensified and accelerated learning for students in grades 4–12.

"No matter what age you are, being a struggling reader is hard. But when you hit sixth, seventh and eighth grade it's a serious problem and the need to accelerate the development of reading skills for these students is paramount."

Students using Lexia in grade four and above receive foundational skills practice in the five domains of reading instruction as outlined by the National Reading Panel. The age-appropriate content and activities help students accelerate their reading development without being embarrassed by the reading content.

"As the district's literacy improvement coordinator, I am thrilled to have such a powerful program that is used district-wide. I truly believe in Lexia Reading. It is an invaluable tool and I can't imagine not providing such a beneficial resource to our students and staff."