



Lexia®
ALL FOR LITERACY™

CASE STUDY

Literacy Across Language

A Charter Network's
Mission for Multilingual
Learners



This case study is blinded to offer staff and student anonymity.

The journey to science of reading-based literacy instruction for educators at one charter organization has been 10 years in the making. With multiple schools throughout the state of Michigan, the charter network has an extremely diverse student population and a high rate of multilingual learners.

While some multilingual students have strong literacy skills in their native language, others don't—and for some, it's their first time going to school. Two key leaders, a curriculum director and instructional coach, are helping educators at the network of schools embark on a mission to help every student learn to read—especially their multilingual students. They know language and literacy skills are transferable, and they just needed to find the right tools to make it happen.

For the curriculum director, one of the most critical features of a program is its ability to provide differentiated instruction. Educators needed a solution that would help students learn the foundational skills of English literacy regardless of their grade level, and that could adapt to the range of skill levels of their multilingual students. With students coming into the classroom at every ability level, charter leaders needed a program that would help each student grow at their own pace.

In 2016, the charter network adopted Lexia® Core5® Reading for elementary students and Lexia® PowerUp Literacy® for secondary students.

A Bumpy Implementation Journey

During the first few pre-pandemic years, educators weren't as well-equipped for technology as they are today. "It was a 'Use it when you have the one buildingwide Chrome cart' kind of thing," the instructional coach said. "Limited resources made it hard to implement Lexia® as effectively as we would have liked."

When they moved to one-to-one devices during the pandemic, usage jumped way up. "It changed everything! No more standing at the copy machine," the instructional coach said.

Even with one-to-one devices, a strong implementation takes time. While some teachers were invested in the program's targeted instruction and timely resources from the start, others weren't sure how to use the data reports most effectively. The curriculum director encouraged educators to have students meet recommended usage minutes each week, while they worked on growing teacher knowledge confidence. Student reading rates slowly improved, but charter leaders knew that with time and continued teacher support, they could do even better.

"It was a step in the right direction, but not our vision of following the plan with real integrity," the curriculum director said. "Teachers who weren't walking around and working one-on-one with students would never know if one of their students was lost and needed help."



PowerUp and Teaching Fundamental Literacy Skills in Secondary Grades

“ While PowerUp and Core5 cover the same foundational skills, it's essentially a different presentation. It's not appropriate to give them 'See Jane run.' PowerUp can feel like a video game—that's a good thing that gets their attention. I love the resources and the resource hub, and how user-friendly the platform is. The 5-minute check-in is the most powerful selling point for Lexia. If a teacher feels intimidated trying to teach foundational skills, just encourage them to use that 5-minute check-in.”

— 6–12 ELA/Social Studies
Instructional Coach

“ One of the bigger advantages of PowerUp and Core5 is that it is based on the student's ability. All of the students can be doing Lexia at the same time without understanding or even being aware of the fact that other students are at very different levels and their screens look very different. It's very personalized to meet students where they are.”

— Curriculum Director



Now, at the elementary level, all classes have a 45-minute block time for remediation daily in Core5. For grades 6–10, there are two blocks of English where students get time in PowerUp: One for core work and the other for remediation or writing. PowerUp can also be used in the 11th grade English lab class.

But the higher the grade level, the more resistance the curriculum director noticed from many teachers. In the upper grades, teachers more often resisted teaching literacy skills because it was perceived as less sophisticated—and they didn’t always have much experience teaching literacy.

“There’s literature and then there’s literacy,” the curriculum director said. “We’re going to make sure they can read before we worry about what they read.”

Data Is Crucial to Success

As data started to show better student performance aligning with fidelity of use, the light bulbs started going on for teachers. Teachers using Lexia effectively and consistently were showing better reading growth—and others were curious to learn from their colleagues who were having good results.

As leaders committed to fully exploring the data, charter school leaders had a good understanding of what was working—and what still wasn’t.

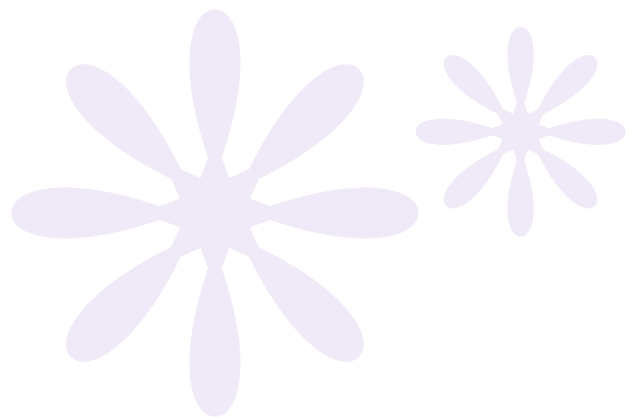
“Lexia is very good—the diagnostic is accurate,” the curriculum director said. “If the reports are read, they’re very clear.”

They taught educators to study student data to find the trend and then zoom in to identify which activities would go with which students. If they needed comprehension on informational text, they would do a mini-lesson on the slide deck, then go into small groups.

The instructional coach also encourages educators to share the data with their students. “I love when I sit down with a student and go over data with them. They are so curious. And not just elementary kids, even high school kids want to have a conversation about data,” the coach said.

These days, students form a line to talk to the instructional coach about their data—they, too, understand its power in determining their progress. When students see their teacher invested in their learning, and they see their progress, they are often more motivated to continue.

Charter school leaders expect the educators using data to drive instructional decisions will continue to see the most consistent growth.



Advantages of PowerUp and Core5 for a Multilingual Population

The curriculum director appreciates how the user-friendly platform and 5-minute check-in are so helpful in particular for students in upper grades who are developmentally advanced but performing at a lower level.

“I used to spend a lot of time inventing games and making them fun as I sat at my little kidney table with kids,” the curriculum director said. “I found that I dove into the Resource Hub of Lexia, and while they’re not presented as games, they’re easily gamified. They’re short and interactive.”

The curriculum director sees great potential for providing differentiation based on readily available data, leading to informed instruction that requires minimal planning for teachers. It’s important for teachers to see that using the data doesn’t have to be taxing or take extra time they already don’t have. It’s providing information that’s customized, individualized, and totally responsive.

“It’s exciting when students stand up and yell ‘I GOT IT, I FINISHED!’” the curriculum director said.



“

The goal is that all of our students are literate, and that all of our staff and students understand that literacy does not mean grammar. Literacy is cross-content. Literate means that you are able to communicate effectively, across content areas.”

— Curriculum Director

Next Steps: Get the Full Team on Board

The charter schools' administrators continue to work on getting buy-in from all teachers across the grade levels. They're offering a variety of ways for instructors to get the training, support, and resources they need to help students level up in literacy, including:

- Ongoing professional development
- A Success Partnership with Lexia
- Peer-to-peer support
- Demonstration of before/after of educators with strong implementation
- Lexia® LETRS® training (through the state of Michigan)
- Literacy modules—expanding that to have coaches and teachers participate across content areas

"We are expanding our efforts. We need to make sure every person in our buildings knows that literacy applies to them, that every single person is teaching it. Our teachers participate in literacy across content areas," the instructional coach explained.

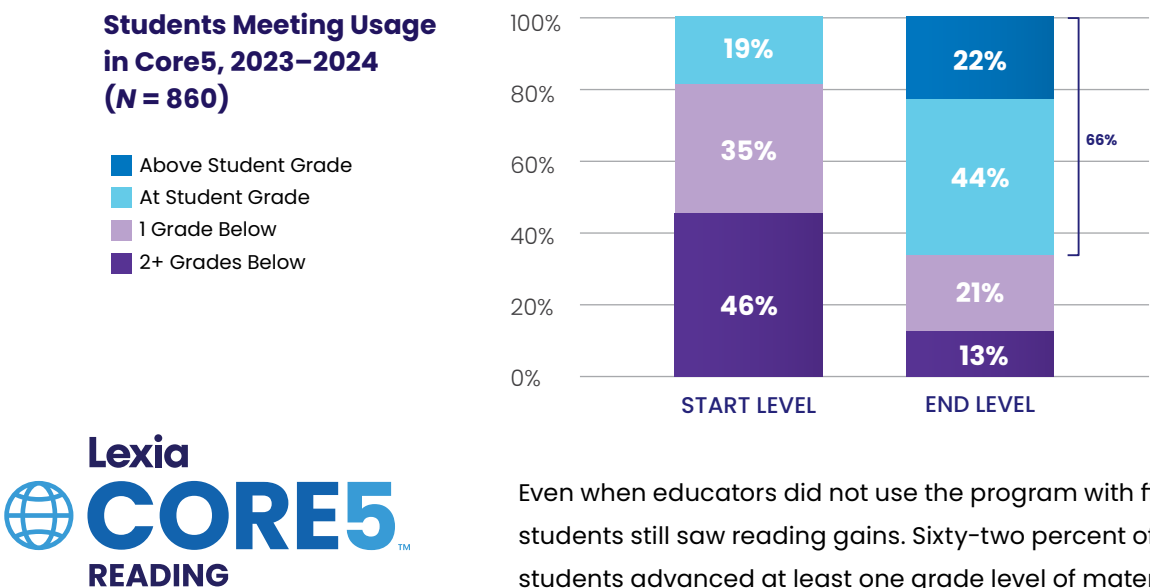


Leaders at the charter network offered a stipend for their first cohort of teachers to participate in LETRS, an in-depth, professional learning course available for educators at no cost by the state of Michigan. They also scheduled dedicated professional development time Friday afternoons for the cohort, which includes elementary teachers, coaches, literacy specialists, and some principals. "LETRS is time-consuming, but every single person we talk to says it's beyond worth it," the curriculum director said. "People with Ph.D.s in literacy have said that they've learned from the LETRS training. And if you do it now, you'll be ahead of the game."

The instructional coach adds, "I'm taking LETRS now. It's fascinating stuff. I'm hopeful that some secondary teachers will jump on the bandwagon in the future."

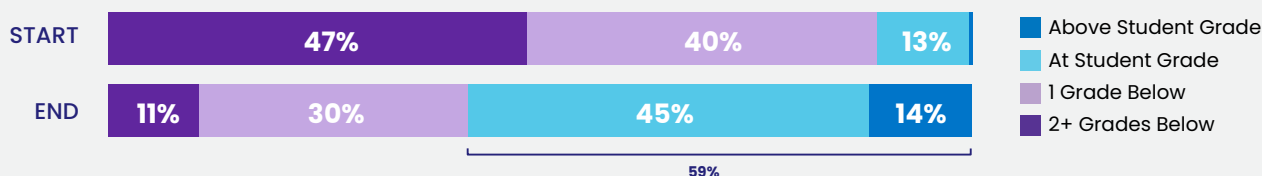
Sustained Growth and a Promising Look at What’s To Come

The charter network’s data shows a clear link to using these products with fidelity with both Core5 and PowerUp. For elementary students using Core5 with fidelity, 66% of students ended the 2023–2024 school year at or above grade level, and 85% moved up at least one grade level of material.

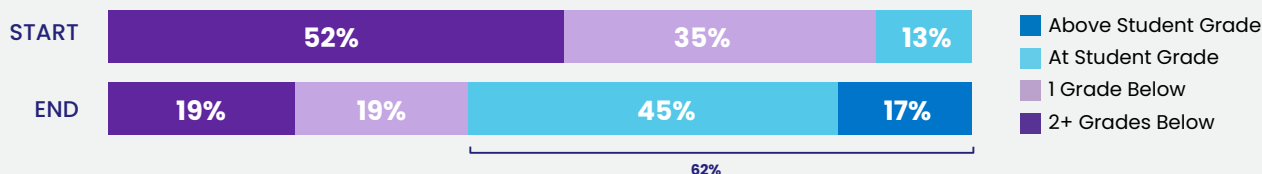


School Spotlights

The school with the greatest fidelity of use (75%) was **[School A]**, and across the school, students working on or above grade-level materials jumped from **14% to 59% in just one year**.



[School B] also had a high fidelity of use (70%) and the percentage of students working at or above grade level grew from **13% to 62% in a single year**.



At **[School C]** and **[School D]**, the educators who did focus on Core5 fidelity saw impressive growth. At **[School C]**, **83%** of students using the program with fidelity ended the year working on or above grade-level materials. At **[School D]**, that number was **94%**.

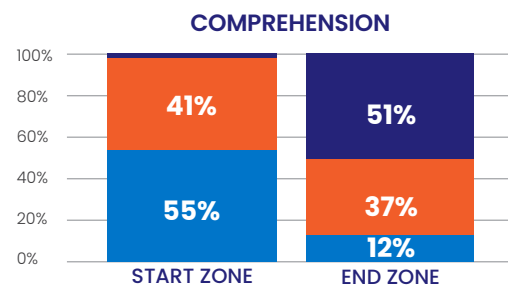
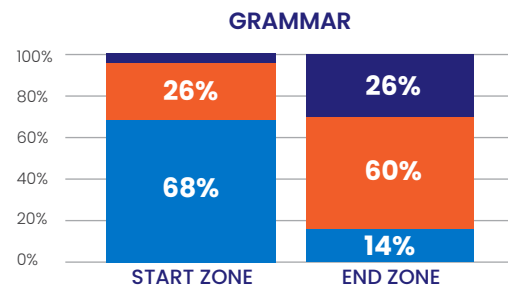
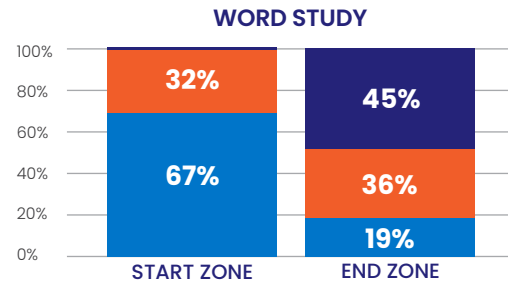
While the charter network's secondary educators were less likely to implement PowerUp with fidelity, students still saw significant growth. Across all 1,150 students with any usage, **61%** ended the 2023–2024 school year in the Intermediate or Advanced zones for Comprehension. Additionally, students working in the Intermediate or Advanced zones for Grammar increased from 29% to 40%, while students working in the Intermediate or Advanced zones for Word Study increased from 25% to 42% by the end of the school year.

When students used PowerUp with fidelity, 76% of those students meeting usage moved up **at least two zones** since the beginning of the school year: More than half the students ended the year in the Advanced zone for comprehension.



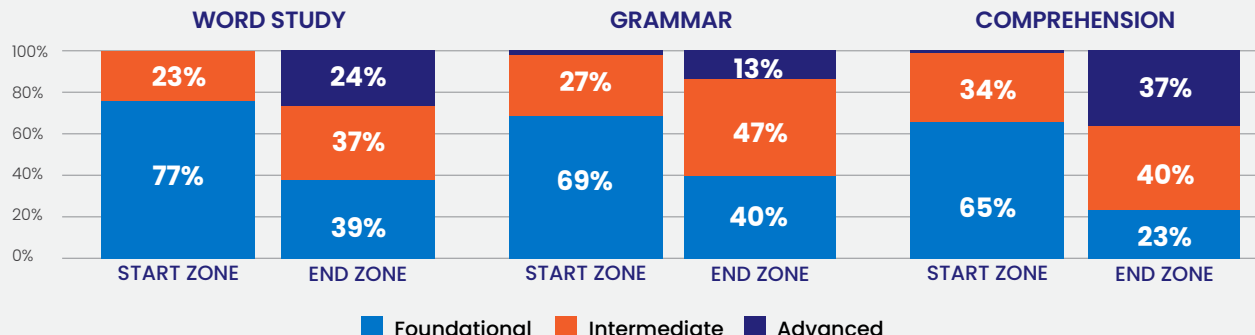
Students Meeting Usage in PowerUp, 2023–2024

■ Foundational ■ Intermediate ■ Advanced



School Spotlight

[School E] had the greatest percentage of secondary students meeting usage goals at 33%. Students at **[School E]** completed an average of **27 units per week**, with students who used Powerup with fidelity achieving an average of **32 units per week**. (The district average was 11 units/week). 108 of the 168 students moved up at least one zone.



Looking Ahead

Leaders at the charter network adopted Lexia English Language Development™ two years ago to provide additional English language support for multilingual students who need extra practice.

In the meantime, administrators are committed to staying the course, and the data is showing the charter school educators are on the right track.

“We want every student to graduate where the college and career choices are theirs for the taking,” the instructional coach said. “That literacy component is critical. I tell teachers, if students can read, they can read a rental agreement and the manual for a NASA rocket ship.”

“This is it,” the coach concluded. “If they don’t get it from us, they’re not going to get it. The right to read is a civil right in Michigan, and we have to honor that. There’s no excuse for a student to leave us less than proficient. Any resource that helps us achieve that: We’ve got to go all in.”





© 2025 Lexia, a Cambium Learning Group company. Lexia® and other trademarks, names, and logos used herein are the property of Lexia and/or its subsidiaries, and are registered and/or used in the United States and other countries. Additional trademarks included herein are the property of their respective owners. All rights reserved.