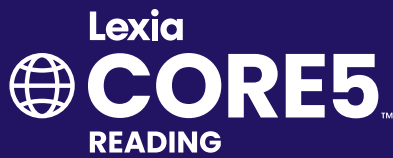


CASE STUDY

Data Don't Lie: Differentiation Matters for Intervention and Enrichment





In 2022, a literacy emergency was in full effect at Jacksonville Lighthouse Elementary School.

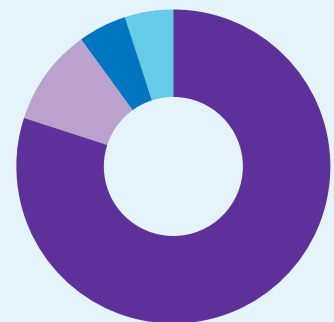
At this K–4 public charter school in Arkansas, the population of 210 students is approximately 80% African American, 10% White, 5% Hispanic, and 5% of mixed heritage. After several years of dropping scores, only 10% of students were reading at grade level, and the school was rated “F.”*

“We were failing at every grade level, and failing our kids,” Principal John Osborn said.

Administrators understood literacy was the No. 1 need—and they didn’t have the luxury of time to find a solution.

**data provided by Jacksonville Lighthouse Elementary School principal*

Student Demographics*



- 80% African American
- 10% White
- 5% Hispanic
- 5% Mixed Heritage

A Quick Decision With Teacher Buy-In

With literacy as their most critical need, the Jacksonville Lighthouse administrators acted quickly to get a literacy specialist on site, partner with a local agency for academic support, and choose a core, state-approved curriculum. Then, they started looking at supplements.

"It was the teachers who said, 'We need to go with Lexia®,'" Osborn said.

One teacher in particular had used Lexia at other schools and had seen it work well—and she convinced everyone Lexia® Core5® Reading was the way to go. She would go on to become the primary champion for Core5 on staff, learning the product inside and out and assisting with trainings, resources, and presentations.

The decision was made to adopt Core5, along with the theme of "PLAY: Prioritize Literacy and Achieve it Year-Round."

Implementation With Rapid Results

During the first year of implementation, Osborn said administrators made Core5 available to teachers—but didn't provide enough training or support. During the following year, they revamped the training and recruited their Core5 champion teacher to be the official on-staff Lexia point person. That's when they started seeing results.

Reading proficiency skyrocketed.

"We have about two hours a day for core reading instruction," Osborn said. "Teachers spend about an hour to an hour and a half on grade-level teaching, doing lessons, small-group activities, and core content. But if you're teaching to 25 kids, you have about five different levels."

Teaching to these five levels in a single group lesson can be challenging. Many students are going to get it, some will still miss it, and some already know it. That's where a 15–30 minute period of intervention and enrichment comes in, allowing students to get a lesson at their level.

"Lexia Core5 is differentiated by student," Osborn said "So, you have these students who are way behind, but they can still practice that skill on Core5, or if they're not there yet, it starts them where they need to be, and it works their way up to it. But they've at least got the grade-level exposure with the whole-group lesson. They've seen it. Students who are reading fluently at a fourth grade level as a second-grader, Lexia is working with them at their level, pushing them to learn even more skills."

Lexia also supports core curriculum instruction when the pacing guides align. Alongside his champion educator, Osborn told his teachers, "If Lexia is doing what we're doing, pull a Lexia Lesson®. If it matches, if a large chunk of students are working on that skill in Lexia, we can overlap some of those lessons."

For Osborn, Lexia filled the extension gap left by their core curriculum. Teachers would ask “Where’s the small-group activity? Where’s the extension activity?” With Lexia, they don’t run out of resources.

“They’re thrilled to have Lexia resources to use as an extension activity for that skill—there’s no wasted time,” Osborn said. “Every minute is meaningful.”

State Supports the Science of Reading

According to the NAEP Report Card, Arkansas students’ literacy scores have been steadily decreasing since 2013. During the last few years, educators and legislators have been working to turn that ship around.

In 2019, Arkansas lawmakers amended the Right to Read Act, requiring curriculum programs supported by the science of reading. Then, in 2023, legislators passed the LEARNS Act, which overhauled much of the state’s education system. In regards to literacy, the LEARNS Act requires teacher training in the science of reading, additional support for struggling students, and more rigorous literacy requirements for students advancing from third grade.

Lexia Pairs Perfectly

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In Arkansas, every teacher, every elementary teacher, has to be certified in science of reading-based instruction. That pairs perfectly with Lexia. Lexia emphasizes the phonics, skills, and the rules, and aligns with how we teach reading now. We’ve changed programs a couple of times over the last three years, but Lexia is one that all elementary teachers requested to stay in place.”

– John Osborn, Principal, Jacksonville Lighthouse Elementary School



Data You Don't See Every Day

In just two years, Jacksonville Lighthouse Elementary School went from 10% of students reading at grade level (above the 60th percentile) in 2022-23 to 30% in winter 2024-25, based on NWEA testing results.*

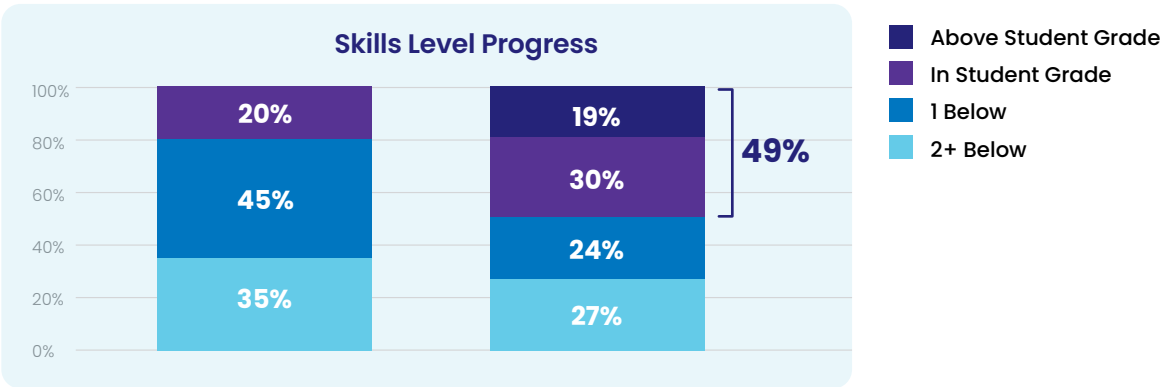
Educators at the charter district set a stunning goal: They want 70% of students to be on grade level in 2025.

"It's a lofty goal," Osborn said. "We're going chunk by chunk." The goal he set based on K-2 NWEA test results in 2022 was around getting from 10% to 45% of students on grade level. Last year, 30% of K-2 students achieved grade-level reading skills. Now, as of midyear, the school is trending at 40%-45% of K-2 students on grade level—very close to achieving Osborn's initial goal.*

Osborn is most proud of his kindergarten students. Eighty-four percent of kindergarten students* are scoring above the 40th percentile. In prior years, he shared, that number used to only be 40% above. "That really low-low category? We're seeing it decrease every single year now," Osborn said.

Looking ahead to the goal of 70%, Osborn and other charter school leaders agree the expectation needs to be high. Even if they fall short, they'll still move the needle, and Osborn sees that needle moving, especially for students who were at the bottom.

"First, we started with culture, then the team, then systems," he said. "There's no single solution. It's a daily push where everything matters. Intervention, enrichment, amazing lessons. Alignment with the science of reading, standards, skills. I don't think people realize how important the supplemental piece is."



In Core5, students at Jacksonville Lighthouse Elementary School went from only 20% reading at or above grade level to 49% in a single year. When they used the program with fidelity, **82%** of students ended the year working on grade level or higher skills.**

*data provided by Arkansas Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter Elementary School principal

**data from 2023-2024 school report from Lexia Analytics hub

A Lot To Celebrate—and Continued Growth for the Future

At Jacksonville Lighthouse Elementary School, students are excited about leveling up and confidence is high. They celebrate with cupcakes and cheers because Core5 fills the gaps for students who are behind—and lets more advanced students work ahead.

Teachers feel the progress and they're excited to see positive changes. Although they've made changes to their curriculum, the teachers insist on keeping Core5 in place. They're also staying put in their roles in a way they didn't in the past: The school's retention rate is higher than it's ever been at around 90–95%*.

Osborn attributes this to the fact they're seeing success. Reading scores are going up, platforms are in place, and the teachers want and deserve to enjoy this success. There's a sense that they're finally on the right track and need to stay the course to see exponential benefits roll in.

While the new state-awarded letter grade for the school hasn't been released, Osborn is hopeful his school will be upgraded because students are showing growth in every discipline: Math, ELA, science—every tested category shows improvement*. The state no longer categorizes this school as in need of monitoring.

"We've built this program and there's nothing major that we need to change," Osborn said. "Lexia perfectly fits into a collaborative learning model. When you talk about wanting to differentiate and enrich for students in literacy, Lexia fits perfectly."

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The most important thing Core5 does is it ensures your students are learning at their level. Above or below grade, it's giving them the skills that they need to keep growing and keep improving. It's very specific. It's very individualized. The data reports are incredibly easy, and it gives that feeling of success and a win to teachers. And the students will get excited about it, enthusiastic about it too.”

– John Osborn, Principal, Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter Elementary School

Why Lexia? Lexia Checks the Four PLC Questions

☒ What do students need to learn?

☒ How do you know they've learned it?

☒ What do you do if they haven't learned it?

☒ What do you do if they have learned it?

**student and teacher data provided by Arkansas Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter Elementary School principal*

***data from 2023–2024 school report from Lexia Analytics hub*



Lexia®, a Cambium Learning® Group brand, is transforming literacy education, driving change in 1 of every 3 school districts across the United States. For more than 40 years, Lexia has been a thought leader in literacy education, delivering award-winning, research-based solutions grounded in the science of reading. With a full spectrum of offerings, including professional learning, curriculum, and embedded assessment tools, Lexia provides educators with Structured Literacy solutions that are proven effective and designed to drive meaningful literacy outcomes. By empowering educators with unparalleled ease of use and the knowledge and tools they need, Lexia helps more students unlock their potential to read, write, and speak with confidence. For more information, visit lexialearning.com.

