

How We Did It: Implementation Insights From Loudoun County, Virginia

When Virginia’s Literacy Act raised the bar for secondary reading instruction, Loudoun County Public Schools didn’t wait for a mandate to become a plan. They built one with **Lexia® PowerUp Literacy®**.



The Challenge

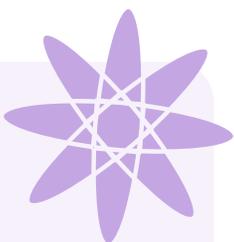
- Persistent gaps in adolescent decoding and spelling predated COVID-19 and continued afterward across one of Virginia’s largest districts.
- Secondary educators were expected to support struggling readers, but most had never been formally trained in how students learn to read.
- Virginia’s Literacy Act required evidence-based reading instruction across all grade levels, pressing district leaders to connect central office vision to classroom practice.
- The district needed to put Structured Literacy into practice across 18 middle schools.



There needs to be ongoing dialogue about how we bridge the chasm between what we know from research and what needs to happen in the schools.”

– DR. MICHELLE PICARD, SUPERVISOR OF SECONDARY ENGLISH AND READING, LOUDOUN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

8,930



students showed measurable literacy growth with PowerUp, working through the program’s three instructional strands at their own pace.

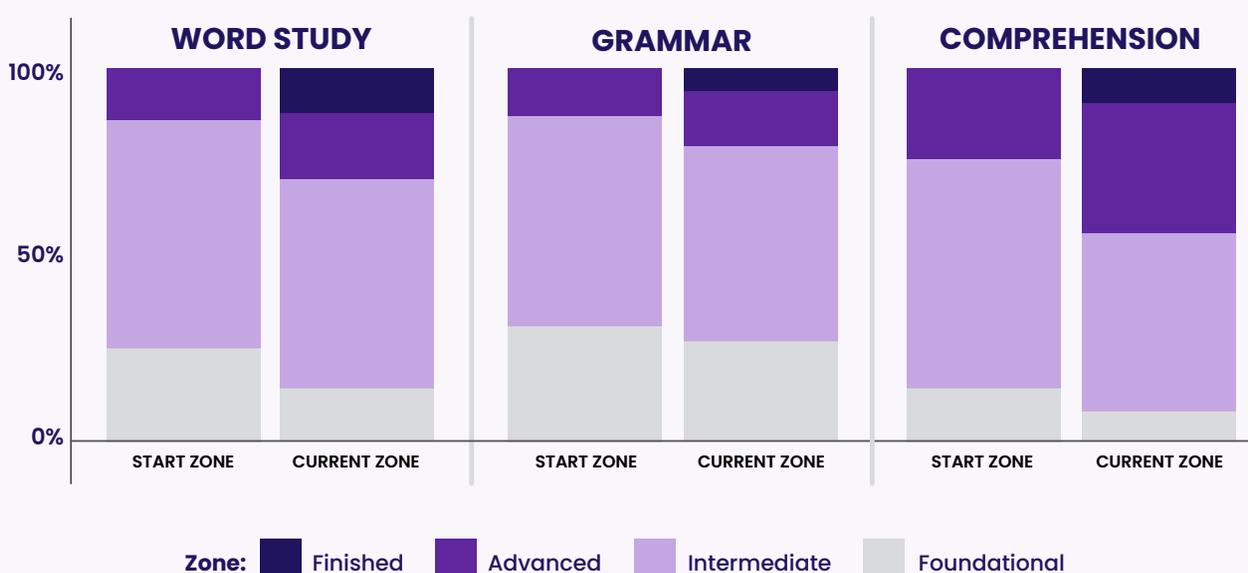


The Solution

Dr. Michelle Picard, Ed.D., and her team started by clearly **defining what success looked like for adolescent readers** before selecting any tools or programs. That clarity shaped every decision that followed and led the district to choose PowerUp as its core program for secondary readers. PowerUp delivers targeted instruction across three strands of literacy development, and its adaptive model gives personalized support without requiring every teacher to become a reading specialist.

But the program alone wasn’t the solution. The district **broke down the walls between central office and school buildings**, setting shared expectations across all 18 schools. They earned principal buy-in through consistent partnership, shared resources, and visible student progress. They also started with a “coalition of the willing,” building proof of concept with early adopters before scaling to additional buildings.

Loudoun County Public Schools Zone Progress



See how your district can partner with Lexia to drive literacy success.