Every Student Can Succeed

How PowerUp's Adaptive Blended Learning Ensures 6-12 Students Receive the Instruction They Deserve
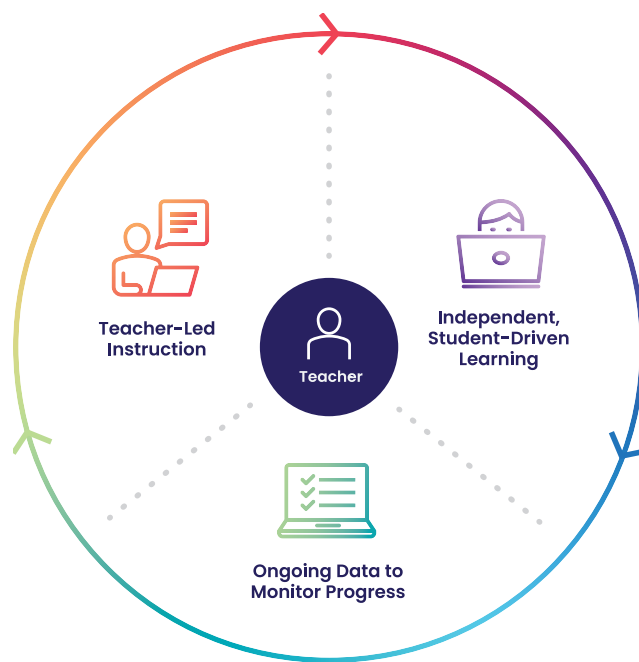
Lexia
⚡POWERUP
LITERACY

Lexia® **All for Literacy**

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How Does PowerUp Fit Into Systems of Instruction and Intervention?

Addressing the wide variety of literacy needs of students at the secondary level requires highly effective instruction and intervention systems, at scale. Tiered systems of support, such as Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and Response to Intervention (RTI), emphasize the essential elements of high-quality instruction, screening, progress monitoring, and data-based decision-making in teams (Center on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support). Yet, secondary educators often face the dual challenges of designing instructional programs in the absence of informative assessment data (Hock et. al, 2009) while also trying to find adequate time for literacy instruction and intervention in the context of busy middle- and high-school schedules.

As students work through their personalized path in the program, they build fundamental literacy skills through relevant and engaging experiences.

Teacher-Led Instruction

Independent, Student-Driven Learning

Teacher

Ongoing Data to Monitor Progress

Lexia® PowerUp Literacy® is a personalized, adaptive blended literacy program that helps students in grades 6–12 become proficient readers and confident learners. PowerUp accelerates learning for students across a continuum of needs, supporting students who need supplemental or intensive support at the middle-school level as well as students in need of intensive support at the high-school level. PowerUp links independent learning with teacher-led instruction by gathering continuous Assessment Without Testing® data. As students work through their personalized path in the program, they build fundamental literacy skills through relevant and engaging experiences designed specifically for adolescent learners.

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High-Quality Literacy Instruction

Well before students reach middle school, literacy skills not only have an influence on English Language Arts performance but also underpin access to many aspects of content-area classes. For secondary students who are not yet demonstrating proficiency on grade-level literacy skills, high-quality instruction in these foundational skills provides an essential means to address skill gaps and bridge access to grade-level texts.

Instruction that is aligned with reading science is direct and explicit, systematic in how skills are ordered, cumulative in how it builds on prior learning, diagnostic, and responsive to student needs (Birsh & Carreker, 2018; NICHD, 2000). PowerUp's scope and sequence provides the framework to teach skills in a systematic, sequential, and scaffolded manner that address these essential features.

The Simple View of Reading model unscores the critical influence of both word-recognition and language comprehension skills in determining a student's ability to comprehend what they read (Gough & Tunmer, 1986; Hoover & Gough, 1990). While the concept may be "simple," effectively addressing these three areas in tandem takes concerted, intentional efforts (Cervetti et. al, 2020). These three areas are addressed in PowerUp as distinct but interrelated strands of self-paced online activities: Word Study, Grammar, and Comprehension. Each strand covers a wide range of skills, spanning three grade-level bands: Foundational (K–2), Intermediate (3–5), and Advanced (6–8+).

Word Study

Students develop accuracy and automaticity with decoding skills so they can shift their cognitive resources on deriving meaning from what they read.

- Phonemic Awareness
- Phonics
- Structural Analysis
- Decoding
- Spelling
- Fluency
- Morphology

Grammar

Students learn how parts of speech function in sentences and how parts of sentences convey meaning to improve both reading comprehension and written composition.

- Parts of Speech
- Parts of Sentences
- Capitalization
- Punctuation
- Text Structure

Comprehension

Students develop skills and strategies needed for higher-order text analysis using increasingly complex original and authentic texts that are appealing and relevant to adolescent learners.

- Text Elements
- Author's Craft
- Higher-Order Thinking
- Literary Vocabulary
- Analysis & Evaluation of Two Sources
- Morphology

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Differentiated Placement and Usage Recommendations

Research on adolescent readers has underscored the need for assessment data to explain not only which students are struggling but why (Carreker, 2017; Snow, 2002). Two students may demonstrate similar general performance levels as provided by end-of-year assessments, but skills that need to be addressed to support their catch-up growth may be distinctly different (Hock, et. al, 2009). Academic language skills, in particular, make a strong contribution to literacy performance by middle school (Galloway Brown McClain, Uccelli, 2020).

PowerUp's targeted placement activities drive the highly personalized experience through the program. Each student begins the program with three sequential placement exercises that identify their appropriate starting point in the three instructional strands, allowing for a multitude of unique placement combinations. Once they finish these exercises, each student's placement is accessible immediately on the myLexia® educator dashboard. This profile of performance can be viewed at the student level and can illuminate a picture of the overall needs of their classes or caseloads.

Placement directly informs students' usage goals. These recommendations suggest the instructional intensity needed based on the grade level of skills the student is working on in each strand.

These usage recommendations adjust every month based on each student's current place in Word Study, Grammar, and Comprehension, updating their personalized prescription based on progress. Educators can track weekly usage through the Class Overview, while students can monitor targets and usage on their own Student Dashboards.

PowerUp Placement

Ethan Jones completed placement on Jan 6, 2020

Strand	Placement
Word Study	■ Intermediate
Grammar	■ Foundational
Comprehension	■ Intermediate

Usage This Week ❓

Total Minutes ⇕	Target ⇕	Time Needed ⇕	Units Gained ⇕
33	105	+72 🕐	6
164	145	0 ✅	3
114	145	+31 🕐	2
59	135	+76 🕐	3
59	105	+45 🕐	6

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Personalized Instruction, On-Demand Support, and Engaging Content

The imperative for personalized support extends beyond the need for individualized placements. To maximize the impact of online instruction and enable student autonomy, PowerUp automatically scaffolds instruction and integrates on-demand support within the program, so it's always available immediately in any instance that a student may need it.

PowerUp integrates research-based principles fundamental to intrinsic motivation: autonomy, competence, and relatedness/meaning (Kazakoff, 2017). Students have agency in their own learning, with choice around where and how long they spend their time across the three strands of the program. When a student demonstrates difficulty in an online activity, they move to an explicit, Direct Instruction phase of the program to better support their understanding. This personalizes each student's pace and path to their needs, allowing students to move quickly through sections they know and spend time on skills they need most.
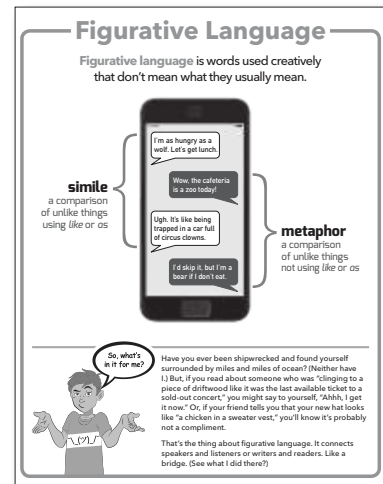
Resources such as On-Demand Instruction and Listen Mode are available for students to use as needed, facilitating self-reliance and deeper internalization of skills/knowledge. Anchor charts are one example of on-demand instruction, giving students a visual reference chart to break down the skills or text structures that they are currently working with. Listen Mode in the Comprehension strand allows students to decide if and when to hear passages or sections of text read aloud. Giving students this control also meaningfully decouples comprehension skills from word-recognition skills, allowing all students the opportunity to engage thoughtfully with complex texts, even if their word-recognition skills are still developing.

To interest and motivate students, the program includes a high number of videos and multimedia features, opinion polling, as well as game-based elements, like ability to earn performance streaks and shields. All content is selected through a lens of relevance for secondary learners, with more than 100 passages of varying genres. Even in the context of activities that build foundational reading skills, attention is placed on the experience for adolescent students; for example, activities focused on decoding short vowels allow students to practice the skill in content of multisyllabic words like "fantastic" rather relying on simplified words like "cat."

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Assessment Without Testing for Continuous Monitoring of Progress

Regular and reliable data can be a meaningful guide for instructional planning and prioritization, but it can also be challenging and time-consuming to gather. To minimize the burden of progress monitoring, continuous data collection through Lexia's patented Assessment Without Testing technology captures detailed student performance, minute by minute. This data translates to multiple levels and layers of reporting, available at the district, school, class, and student levels, and moving from big-picture views of usage and progress down to the very granular details on student skills.
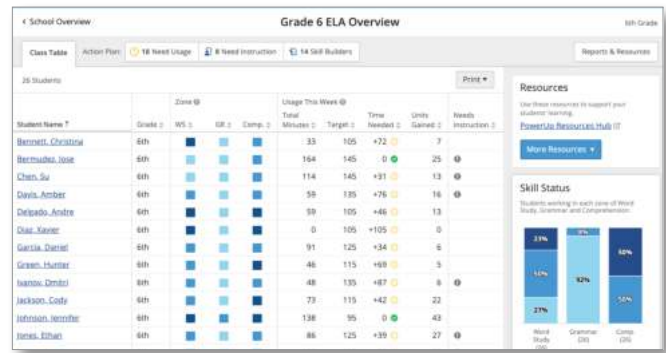
District and school reports in the myLexia educator dashboard provide a way for multiple administrators and educators to access and review program use and progress, supporting resource planning and decision-making across large groups of students.

At the class level, Overview reports provide an Action Plan that delivers quick and clear guidance around student usage and priorities, as well as calling attention to students in need of instructional next steps. Class Skill Reports display a snapshot of the growth in skills that the class, as well as each student, has made so far in the current year, providing a bird's-eye visualization of progress.

Looking at individual student data can help identify diagnostic trends across activities and provides an additional way to document a student's response to the systematic support they are receiving. Student Skill Reports document the activities a student is currently working on, the progress they have made, and their rate and accuracy working through the material.
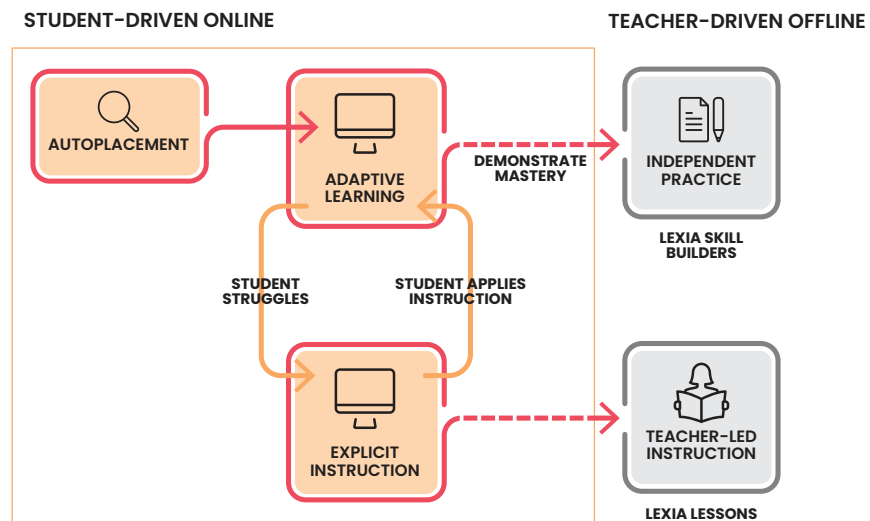
Diving even deeper, teachers can also see the exact errors their students made while working through an activity. Knowing exactly what subskills were a challenge allows for precision and differentiation during instruction or intervention sessions. This reporting may also contribute to data review at student support or grade team meetings, as well as facilitate goal-setting conversations with students, offering them transparency on their progress and input on their personal targets.

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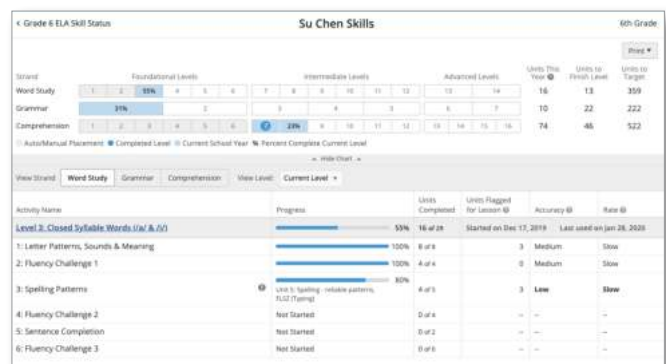
Instructional Resources for Grouping and Intervention

Even with a high level of embedded support, online instruction may be necessary but not always sufficient to fully address and clarify areas of understanding for students. A key aspect of the power of PowerUp is in the real-time link between student performance in the program and data for educators—providing insight about what students know, offering guidance for what they need, and pointing to specific resources to address those needs.

At some points, a student may need more explicit instruction, while at other times, they may primarily need practice and extension.

STUDENT-DRIVEN ONLINE　　　**TEACHER-DRIVEN OFFLINE**

AUTOPLACEMENT

ADAPTIVE LEARNING

DEMONSTRATE MASTERY

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

LEXIA SKILL BUILDERS

STUDENT STRUGGLES

STUDENT APPLIES INSTRUCTION

EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION

TEACHER-LED INSTRUCTION

LEXIA LESSONS

At some points, a student may need more explicit instruction, while at other times, they may primarily need practice and extension, so available resources take various forms. Students who repeatedly demonstrate the need for direct online instruction on a particular skill area are flagged for educator-led support on that skill. Lexia Lessons® are teacher-led, scripted plans about the skills taught in the online program for one-on-one or small-group use. Each Lesson includes a description of the skill and why it is meaningful for literacy development, explicit prompts to support teachers in providing context and modeling skills, answer keys, as well as student-centered practice sections.

Anchor Charts are also incorporated into each Lesson. Helping students bring their learning into a broader context, they often answer the question, "What's in it for me?" They also provide a way for educators to pre-teach or reinforce online learning with a resource that is still accessible once students independently continue their work online.

To maximize learning, students need opportunities to practice, reinforce, and extend their knowledge through multiple modalities. Students who complete a level in PowerUp are automatically recommended for a set of Lexia Skill Builders® to generalize their learning. These student-led resources provide opportunities for reading, listening, speaking, and particularly writing. Available in paper and electronic formats, they can be implemented individually, with peer partners, or with teachers.

To provide even more varied support for whole-class enrichment, small-group instruction, and intervention, the Lexia Resources library includes multiple additional resources such as the complete set of Anchor Charts, writing packs, comprehension passages, and resources highlighting content-area connections. In addition to the differentiated usage recommendations, instructional responsiveness, and motivational elements, these resources make PowerUp adaptable to a wide range of learning settings and students. PowerUp not only fits into ELA or elective classrooms but also intervention block, after-school, and remote learning settings.

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Flexible Partnerships and Professional Learning

Creating scalable systems of support is a multiyear process that requires coordination and planning across schools and districts. Lexia's Customer Success partnerships are designed to guide administrators through the planning process needed to sustainably integrate PowerUp into building instructional and data routines. The Customer Success team can help leaders consider the schedule and instructional configurations that will best meet their school improvement goals.

Professional learning sessions support educators in becoming comfortable and confident in using Lexia's data and resources to help address student skill gaps and improve reading performance. After an initial launch session, training takes a hands-on approach, giving grade-level teams or cohorts opportunities to engage with their data and to facilitate blended, personalized learning for their students.
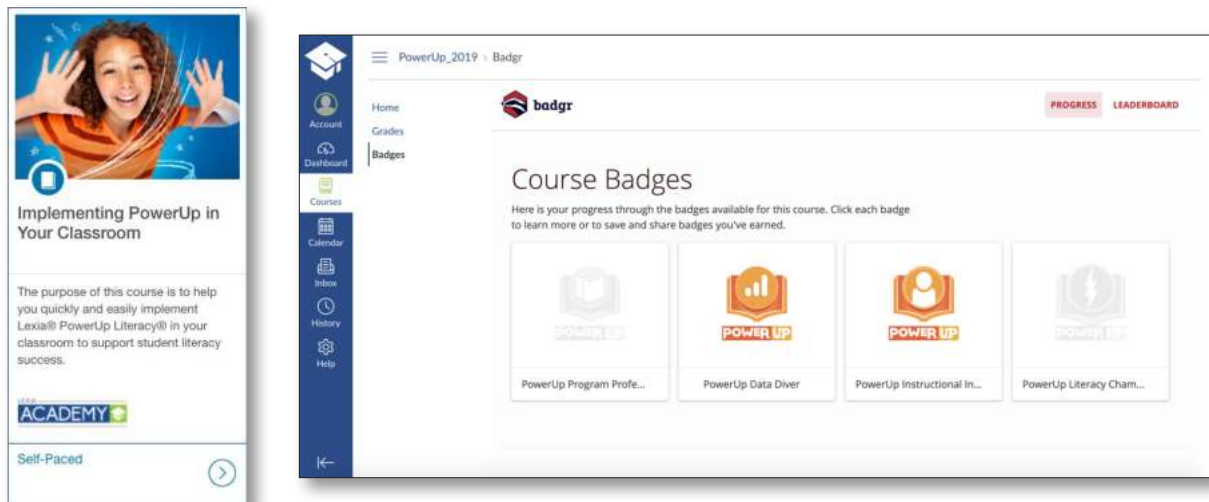
Just like students working in PowerUp, no two educators' needs and pathways of learning are exactly the same. Developed to facilitate flexible, asynchronous opportunities for training, Lexia® Academy is an eLearning platform that supports educators' professional growth with meaningful, self-paced learning opportunities—anytime, anywhere.

Courses offer best practices for use of the program, like "Implementing PowerUp In Your Classroom" and "Using Lexia to Support Remote Learning." Courses are supported by incremental learning segments that help busy educators of all levels immediately apply their newly acquired skills in the classroom. Digital badges and certificates are issued upon completion of each course.

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Rigorous Research With Impactful Results

Documenting the actual impact on learning for students who are not yet proficient is critical, particularly for adolescents who must quickly make up ground in their literacy skills while still keeping pace with disciplinary learning. Lexia's ongoing program of efficacy research has studied PowerUp's effectiveness in promoting meaningful progress in student reading proficiency.

EVIDENCE for **ESSA** .ıl STRONG

In a study meeting ESSA's standards for Strong research, Lexia used a randomized controlled trial to compare middle school students enrolled in supplemental reading classes. While the groups were the same at the beginning of the year, students who used PowerUp scored 40+ scaled points higher on a standardized assessment than their peers who didn't use the program. This translated to an average effect size of +0.36, indicating an impact twice the size of other middle school reading interventions. Notably, these gains were consistent across all subgroups of students tested. These results are published in the peer-reviewed academic Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology. Another efficacy study in a different group of students found that PowerUp students gain on average more than 20 percentile points more than similar students who did not use the program on their end-of-year state assessment.

40+ ↑

PowerUp users scored **40+ scaled points** higher than non-users on a standardized assessment of reading achievement.

IMPRESSIVE SKILLS GAINS

63% of students using PowerUp with fidelity covered **3 grade levels of skills in a single school year.**

Beyond the impact of the program in accelerating student growth, research has documented a body of evidence around PowerUp's relationship with external assessment measures. In multiple samples using different external reading measures, more than 90% of students who completed PowerUp demonstrated proficiency on their end-of-year literacy assessments. This relationship is likely linked to the skill gains PowerUp promotes. In one sample, more than 60% of students using the program with fidelity covered at least three grade levels of skills within a single year.

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Lexia®

Lexia is the Structured Literacy expert. For more than 30 years, the company has focused solely on literacy, and today provides a full spectrum of solutions for both students and teachers. With robust offerings for differentiated instruction, personalized learning, assessment, and professional learning, Lexia helps more learners read, write, and speak with confidence.

lexialearning.com

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