

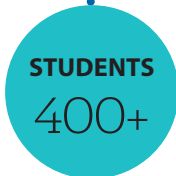
SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT

# Bethany School District Shows Amazing Data-Driven Growth Based on the Science of Reading

Bethany Community School is committed to providing its 400+ students with a rich and rigorous academic foundation designed to develop the skills necessary to be successful.

While they used a myriad of resources to teach foundational reading skills, they knew they needed a resource that explicitly taught reading and connected student assessment to instruction to accelerate learning. “Having all that information in one place is so important for teachers,” said Andrea Hubbard, curriculum coach at Bethany Community School.

Bethany Public School District



“With the help of the Curriculum Associates team, we solicited the state to request that they include *Magnetic Reading Foundations* on its approved list.”

—Cheryl Kiesel, Director of Special Services, Curriculum, and Instruction

SEE MORE



# What They Did

A few years earlier, Bethany's mathematics teachers had successfully implemented Curriculum Associates' *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics* for Grades K–4. The program enables students to work independently at their level to address their individual needs while teachers simultaneously work with small groups to provide instruction. Bethany educators saw how the program elevated student growth and academic outcomes, including a nine percent increase in proficiency from spring 2021 to spring 2022 for Grades 3–4 students. "We had all the resources we needed for math and wanted something for ELA to match that," said Hubbard.

After everyone returned to school following the pandemic, Bethany educators decided it was time to shift their attention toward making instructional improvements in ELA. They began to investigate how Curriculum Associates could help with early literacy instruction.

*"Magnetic Reading Foundations has inspired us. It brought us to another level of reading instruction."*

—Andrea Hubbard, Curriculum Coach



## Transforming English Language Arts (ELA) Instruction

When Bethany's Grades K–1 ELA teachers reviewed *Magnetic Reading Foundations'* scope and sequence and realized it is correlated to the foundational skills domains of the *i-Ready Diagnostic*, they only had one question: "Where was this last year?"

*Magnetic Reading Foundations*, grounded in the Science of Reading, earned not only all-green ratings but, in fact, the only perfect score from EdReports in all Gateways of the rigorous Foundational Skills category. These perfect scores verify the program's alignment to standards and research-based practices that help teachers deliver the explicit, systematic foundational skills instruction necessary to build fluent readers and accelerate student achievement.



## Immediate Results

After incorporating *Magnetic Reading Foundations* into their daily instruction, educators witnessed immediate results. After just a few weeks, the students were excited to go home and tell their families, "I can read that!" "They were proud to be able to decode words they had never seen before on their own," said Hubbard. She went on to say, "*Magnetic Reading Foundations* has inspired us. It brought us to another level of reading instruction. It's a complete package, and the online Teacher Toolbox is so comprehensive, we can access whatever we need in seconds."

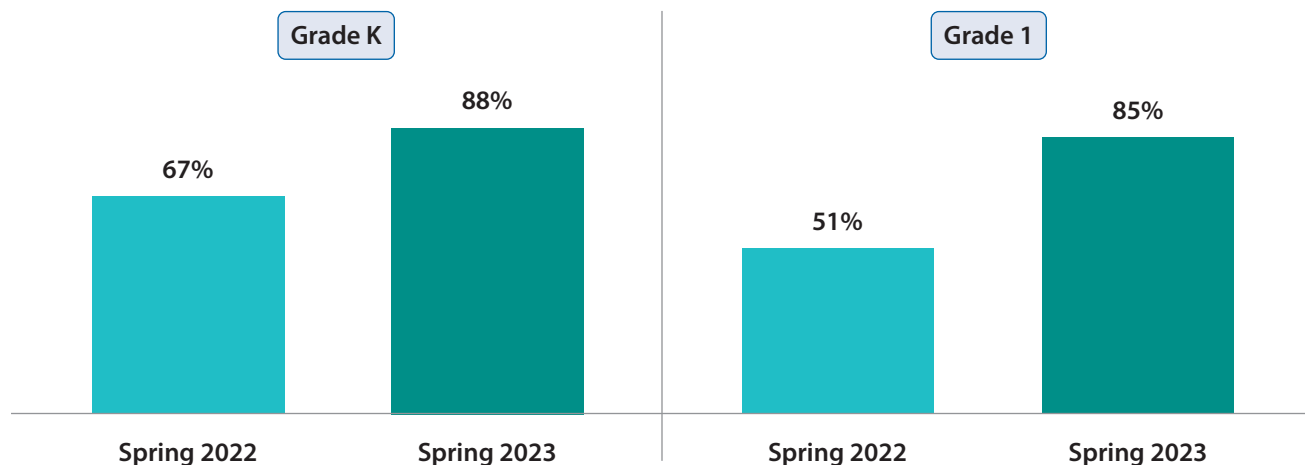


*Magnetic Reading Foundations* earned perfect scores and "all-green" ratings from EdReports.

# What They Accomplished

During the 2022–2023 school year, when *Magnetic Reading Foundations* was first implemented in Grades K and 1\*, reading proficiency grew beyond what anyone thought was possible. Educators attribute their outstanding academic growth to their use of *Magnetic Reading Foundations*. In Grade K, 21 percent more students were reading at mid or above grade level in the spring than the prior year (88 percent versus 67 percent) and educators also saw an increase in Grade K DIBELS scores. And in Grade 1, 34 percent more students were reading at mid or above grade level in the spring than the prior year (85 percent versus 51 percent).

**Percentage of Students Placing Mid or Above Grade Level in Reading**  
Spring 2022 to Spring 2023



\*Grade 2 students did not use *Magnetic Reading Foundations* during the school years covered in this Success Spotlight.

## A Team Effort

Director of Special Services, Curriculum, and Instruction Cheryl Kiesel calls out the remarkable teamwork. “I so appreciate our team at Curriculum Associates for working with us to support our students,” said Kiesel. “It’s been a team effort. The professional development has been awesome, and whenever we contact customer service, they immediately offer solutions to address our issue. There’s always follow-up, and I can’t say that for other vendors I’ve worked with. We have nothing but positive things to say.”

## The Future of ELA Instruction at Bethany

Starting with the 2024–2025 school year, the state of Connecticut will begin its approval process to designate which instructional materials schools should use for ELA instruction. “With the help of Curriculum Associates, we solicited the state to request that they include *Magnetic Reading Foundations* on its approved list,” said Kiesel. They are hoping for a favorable decision, but since *Magnetic Reading Foundations* is designed to be a Tier 1 supplement that easily integrates with any core literacy program, they know they can continue to rely on it.



[READ MORE](#)  
[Success Spotlights](#)