

# Unified Vision and Partnership Yield Stellar Growth in Grades K–5 Reading and Mathematics in SDPBC

The 10th largest school district in the US leverages *i-Ready* as part of a comprehensive plan to help students achieve academic mastery and regain their A rating.

The southeast Florida county of Palm Beach is home to 1.5 million people over a 2,300-square-mile area. Geographically, socioeconomically, and culturally diverse, Palm Beach is one of the fastest-growing counties in the Sunshine State.

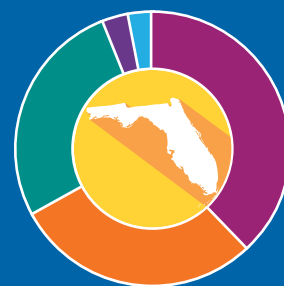
In SDPBC's complex learning community, students, teachers, and local leaders from a broad array of backgrounds and experiences share a vision for success that includes helping every child access grade-level learning.

Through uncommonly deep partnership, targeted best practices, and proven tools, educators are helping students across all grade levels and demographic groups reach their potential in mathematics and literacy.

School District of Palm  
Beach County (SDPBC)  
Florida

## Grades Pre-K–12 Breakdown<sup>1</sup>

189,000+ Students  
13,000 Teachers



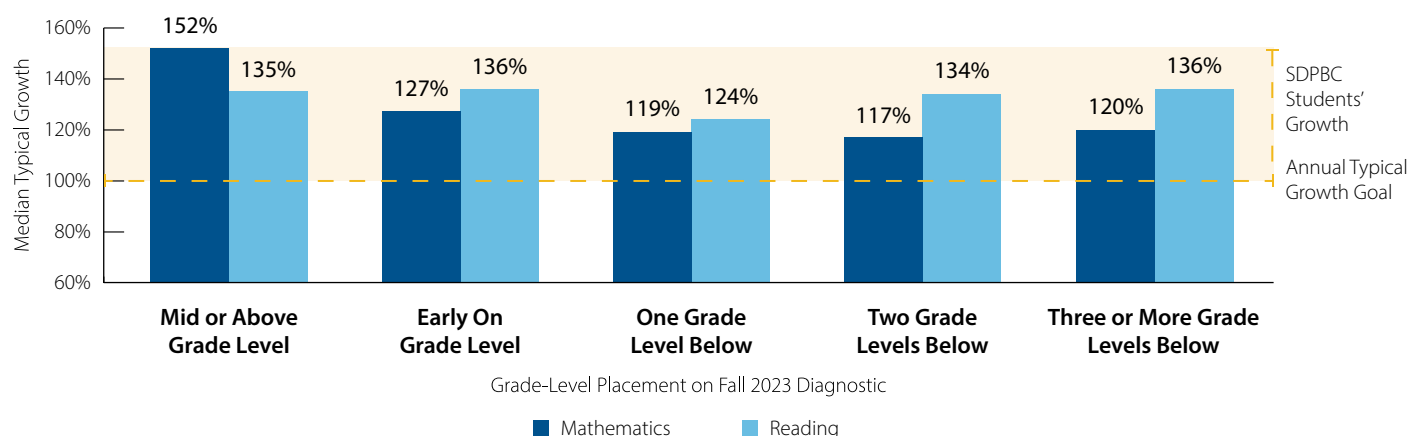
White Black Hispanic  
Asian Other

45%  
Students with  
Socioeconomic  
Disadvantages

14%  
English  
Learners

## Median Percentage of Typical Growth Achieved by Baseline Placement Level

2023–2024 School Year: All Grades K–5



**Across every grade and baseline placement level, SDPBC students exceeded their Typical Growth goal for the 2023–2024 school year.** Typical Growth provides insight into how a student is growing compared to average student growth at the same grade and baseline placement level. Students at different starting points may grow at different rates, and those who are behind need to grow more to reach proficiency. Exceeding Annual Typical Growth brings students closer to grade-level proficiency or beyond.

<sup>1</sup>[USNews.com](https://www.usnews.com)

## “We see you.”<sup>2</sup>

With a vision to see every student and staff member flourish, SDPBC increases agency by personalizing the learning environment at the classroom level.

### District-Level Reporting as a Catalyst for Meaningful Change

When SDPBC lost their A rating following the 2022–2023 school year, district leaders were determined to earn it back. To boost growth in elementary literacy and mathematics, they engaged with their *i-Ready Partners* at Curriculum Associates.

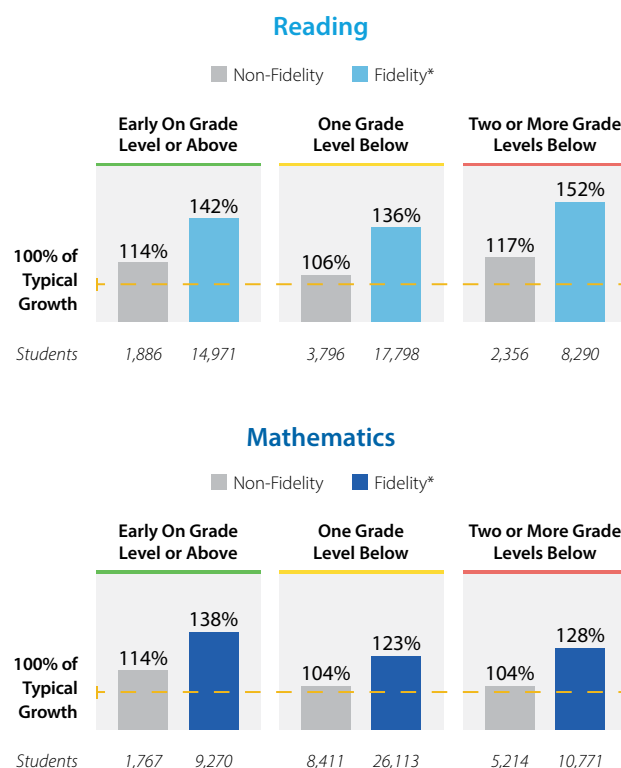
Through a series of strategic planning meetings during the summer, SDPBC and the *i-Ready* team brainstormed ways to improve the efficacy of the district leadership team’s weekly data dives.

One key outcome was customizing *i-Ready*’s Instructional Usage report template, enabling the leadership team to monitor the data points most closely aligned with the district’s goals and to be more intentional about where to provide additional supports to teachers.

Throughout the 2023–2024 school year, the *i-Ready* team also met biweekly with the Reading and Mathematics departments, hosted meetings with regional superintendents and principals, and distributed weekly email updates at the district and regional levels.

This renewed focus on fidelity of implementation at the school level had a significant impact, with students at all placement levels exceeding their Typical Growth goals.

Median Percentage of Annual Typical Growth Achieved with Personalized Instruction Usage by Baseline Placement



Regularly monitoring their customized Instructional Usage report helped district and school leaders better align SDPBC’s use of *i-Ready* with recommended guidelines. With fidelity of use, students saw significant improvement in their reading and mathematics growth over students who did not use the program as recommended. **Fall-to-spring growth gains ranged from 19–35 percentage points.**

\*Median Typical Growth achieved when students have 30+ minutes of instruction per week and ≥ 70% lessons passed

“By utilizing meaningful data, SDPBC has enhanced instructional decision making, shifting the focus from quantity to the quality of learning. *i-Ready*’s customized reports enabled our teachers to adapt lessons to each student’s needs and track their progress. This deeper insight helped teachers guide students more effectively, ensuring every learner is on the path to success and reaching their full academic potential.”

—Adrienne Howard, Director of Elementary Education

<sup>2</sup>SDPBC. (n.d.) *About us*. The School District of Palm Beach County. <https://www.palmbeachschools.org/domain/191>

## Four Promising Practices Form the Framework for Sustainable Growth

To help schools reframe and focus their implementations, the *i-Ready* team created a roadmap specifically tailored to SDPBC’s unique strengths and needs: their “Four Promising Practices.”

### Practice #1: Monitoring beyond Minutes

Time spent on lessons is important, but digging deeper yields actionable insight into the quality of the instruction being delivered.

District and school leaders worked together with teachers and the *i-Ready* team to focus on impactful, quality instructional time on task. Teachers were coached to pay more attention to lesson alerts and lessons passed than lessons completed. They tracked students’ progress, prepared them for upcoming lessons, and were strategic about how and when to use Teacher-Assigned Lessons.

Classroom monitoring and incentives further engaged students and motivated them to pass their lessons, with fun tracking goals—like the Game On! chart below—and milestones personalized to each grade.



### Practice #2: Phonics Initiative in Grades 2–5

To promote literacy growth, the *i-Ready* team worked closely with schools that had students in Grades 2–5 placing below grade level in Phonics. Each student received a personalized learning pathway focused on phonemic awareness and phonics, and teachers were coached to closely monitor lessons passed and upcoming. Trackers helped students and teachers visualize progress, plan ahead, and celebrate achievement.

Rocking my Phonics Lessons						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekly Total
Week 1	😊😊	😊	😊	😊😊😊	😊	8
Week 2	😊	😊		😊😊	😊	5
Week 3						

### Practice #3: Planning for Tier 1 and Small Group Instruction Using Data

The district refocused planning for Tier 1 and small group instruction with the help of three *i-Ready* reports: the Grade-Level Planning (Prerequisites) report for Grades 1–5 Mathematics and, for Reading, the Grade-Level Planning (Scaffolding) report for Grades 3–5 and the Instructional Groupings report for Grades K–2. These reports provided SDPBC with meaningful, data-driven instructional guidance and resources, including recommendations for teacher-led instruction using the Tools for Instruction for both subjects, Tools for Scaffolding Comprehension in Reading, and the Teacher Toolbox for Mathematics.

### Practice #4: Teaching with Standards Mastery

In the fourth Promising Practice, SDPBC teachers shifted their thinking about *i-Ready Standards Mastery*, using this feature not only for assessment but also to deepen their content knowledge of Florida’s B.E.S.T. Standards and to dig deeper on the achievement-level descriptors. This knowledge elevated their in-class instruction and supported better learning outcomes for students.

Standards Mastery also helped SDPBC students build familiarity with the technology-enhanced items they would experience on the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking assessment.

“Don’t even talk to your students about minutes. Talk to them about the lessons they’re working on. How are they passing those lessons? Because if they’re passing three lessons a week, we’re going to be in that sweet spot of instructional time.”

—Jamie Lawrie, Senior *i-Ready* Implementation Consultant

## Best Practices Drive Results

Together with robust professional learning tailored to each elementary school and a dedicated team of educators with a shared vision of seeing every student thrive, these Four Promising Practices helped SDPBC close gaps and achieve measurable academic gains for the 2023–2024 school year.

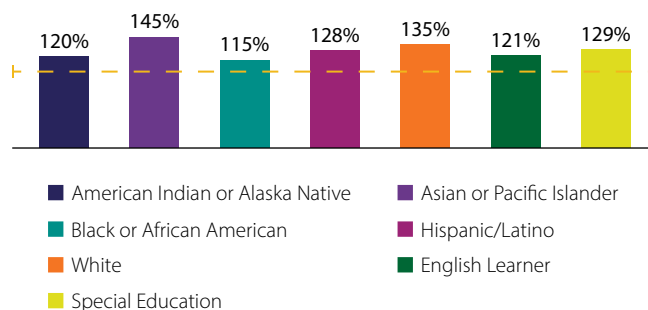
“I value Curriculum Associates’ assessment tools’ real-time, actionable data, helping educators identify gaps in student learning and tailor instruction to individual needs. In addition, [their] comprehensive professional [learning] ensures that teachers are equipped to use their resources effectively, improving student outcomes.”

—Dr. Glenda Sheffield, Chief Academic Officer

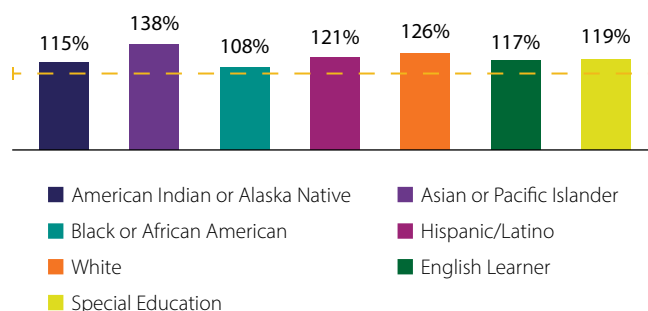
Curriculum Associates and the *i-Ready* team are proud to support the inspiring work and accomplishments of SDPBC leaders, teachers, and students—including the **regaining of their A rating** for the 2023–2024 school year. It is our privilege to do everything we can to help the district achieve its vision for all students and staff.

Median Annual Typical Growth by Student Group  
2023–2024

### Reading



### Mathematics



**Across every demographic group, SDPBC students exceeded their Typical Growth goal** (denoted by the gold dotted line in the graphs above) for Reading and Mathematics—a powerful testament to the district’s unwavering commitment to every scholar.



Learn more about  
[\*i-Ready Personalized Instruction\*](#).