

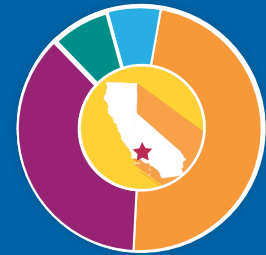
Lighting the Path to Literacy in Morongo USD

Grade-Level Proficiency Significantly Increases in Just One Year with *Magnetic Reading™ Foundations*

Morongo Unified School District (USD)

San Bernardino, California

Grades Pre-K–12 Breakdown
7,400+ Students¹



White African American
Hispanic Other

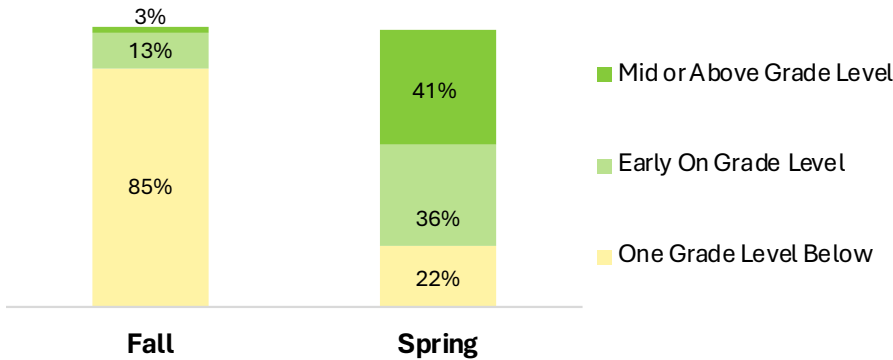
16%

Students with Disabilities

67%

Students Who Are Economically Disadvantaged

Reading Placement Distribution, Fall to Spring 2023–2024
(463 Grade K Students Assessed)



Implementing *Magnetic Reading Foundations*, Morongo USD Grade K students achieved remarkable growth from their fall-to-spring Diagnostic. Placements in Mid or Above Grade Level grew by **38 percentage points in just one school year—a more than 1,250 percent increase.**

Located in the Mojave high desert of Southern California in San Bernardino County and serving an expansive range of communities, including Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree, and Yucca Valley, Morongo USD is a cultural mosaic of students from a variety of backgrounds, including military and migrant families.

With diverse student needs at the heart of their Reader by Nine initiative², district leaders and educators partnered with their Curriculum Associates team every step of the way to build bright futures for Morongo USD’s youngest learners.

“We are grateful to our teachers and students for their dedication to the *Magnetic Reading Foundations* program. Their hard work has led to overall success, fueled by the program’s intentional, research-based approach and the teachers’ embrace of the Science of Reading. We’re excited to see future growth!”

—Katie Fleischman and Melissa Stacey,
Elementary Literacy Coaches, Morongo USD



Magnetic Reading Foundations Receives Perfect, All-Green Scores from EdReports and Meets Evidence for ESSA Standards.



Committed to the belief that all students have the potential to become proficient readers.

Launched in 2022 by the district's United 4 Literacy team³, Morongo USD's Reader by Nine initiative aims to ensure all students reach reading proficiency by Grade 3.

To support this ambitious goal, the district implemented *Magnetic Reading Foundations*, a scientifically based reading instruction program proven⁴ to move students from foundational skills to reading fluency.

A Layered Approach to Implementation

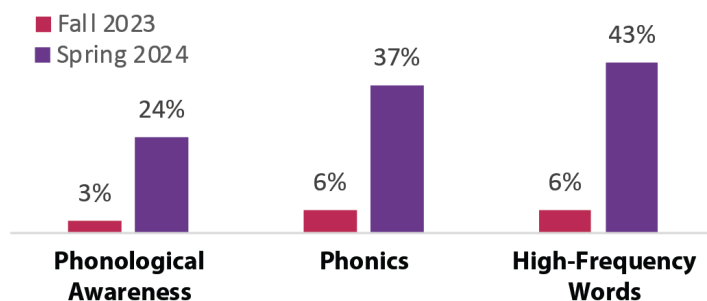
The district overcame resource and scheduling constraints through a layered approach to the rollout of *Magnetic Reading Foundations*, beginning with their Grade K classrooms in fall 2023.

Curriculum Associates' Professional Learning (PL) Specialists quickly got to work, holding full-day workshops at the beginning of the school year to help teachers integrate *Magnetic Reading Foundations'* systematic scope and sequence, explicit instruction, and data-informed insights into their English language arts (ELA) routines.

Deeply committed to the success of their teachers and students, Morongo USD dedicated two literacy coaches to support these efforts, rotating into the schools to provide timely individualized support. Flexible PL opportunities were offered throughout the year in person and virtually, allowing teachers to delve deeper into specific aspects of literacy instruction and to share effective classroom practices.

To maintain high expectations and ensure students were on track to reach grade-level proficiency, district leaders frequently reviewed *Magnetic Reading Foundations'* formative, responsive assessments with principals and Site Leadership teams.

Percentage of Morongo USD Grade K Students Placing Mid or Above Grade Level Fall to Spring 2023–2024



Morongo USD Grade K students using *Magnetic Reading Foundations* were, on average, **21 percentage points higher in Phonological Awareness, 31 percentage points higher in Phonics, and 37 percentage points higher in High-Frequency Words**, based on fall-to-spring 2023–2024 final *i-Ready Diagnostic* results.

A Dramatic Increase in Foundational Literacy

The ongoing collaboration between Morongo USD educators and leaders and their Curriculum Associates team dramatically increased students' foundational literacy in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and High-Frequency Words.

Eager to sustain the momentum of their extraordinary achievements, Morongo USD continues to illuminate the way to grade-level proficiency by expanding *Magnetic Reading Foundations* to all Grade 1 classrooms in fall 2024 and to Grade 2 classrooms during back to school 2025.



All Green on EdReports

Magnetic Reading Foundations is the first-ever ELA program to receive perfect scores for Grades K–2. Scan or click to learn more.

¹<https://www.caschooldashboard.org/reports/366777000000/2023>

²<https://www.morongousd.com/article/1707263>

³<https://www.morongousd.com/page/united-4-literacy>

⁴Duncan, M. K. (2023). *Impact of Magnetic Reading Foundations on overall reading scores in Grade 2*. Curriculum Associates.