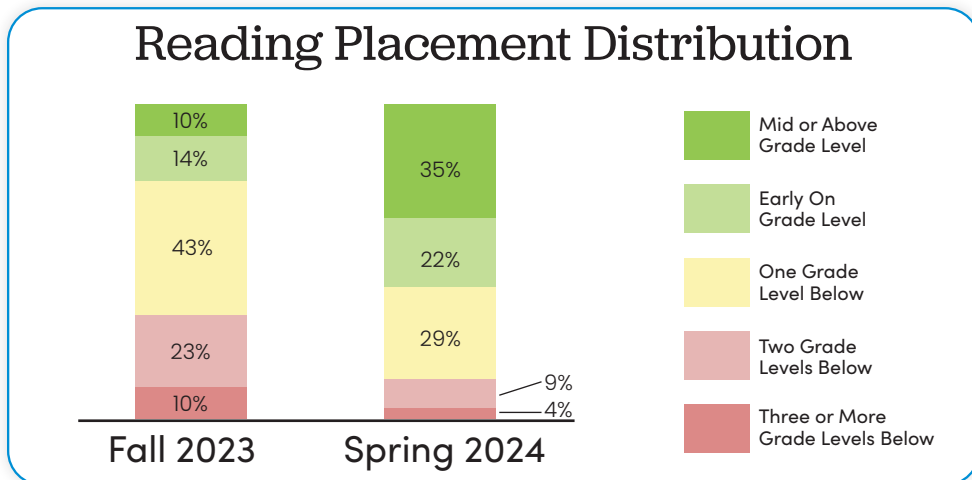


Mat-Su Proficiency Reaches New Altitudes with *Magnetic Reading* for Grades K-5

An Innovative Approach to Instruction Yields Sky-High Results

The success of any journey depends not only on a well-planned itinerary but also on the expertise and close coordination of the entire team. In Mat-Su, educators are in the pilot’s seat, nimble in *Magnetic Reading’s* data-driven, evidence-based instructional practices. District leaders and the Curriculum Associates Alaska team act as the control tower, ensuring schools have timely, targeted resources and support from takeoff to landing.



Implementing Magnetic Reading, Mat-Su achieved remarkable growth from their fall-to-spring Diagnostics. Placements in Mid or Above Grade Level grew by 25 percentage points—a more than 250 percent increase in just one academic year. (5,300 students were assessed. For grade-by-grade analysis, see the Appendix.)

Mat-Su leaders and the Curriculum Associates Alaska team joined forces to chart a new course in Reading instruction, propelling proficiency to new heights.

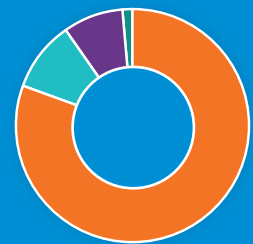
Mat-Su began their trajectory to measurable student achievement by providing a long runway for implementation. Teachers received early access to *Magnetic Reading* materials months prior to the fall rollout, so they could explore every aspect of its systematic scope and sequence, explicit instructional routines, knowledge-building topics, and assessment-informed insights. This lead time also allowed teachers to fine-tune their instructional strategies, anticipating the needs of their unique classrooms and students.

The Curriculum Associates Alaska team launched *Magnetic Reading* during the summer months with a sequence of actionable classroom data workshops and tailored professional learning sessions.

Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District (Mat-Su)



Grades Pre-K-12¹



- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Black
- Hispanic/Latino
- White

14%
Students with Disabilities

4%
English Learners

43%

of Students Are Economically Disadvantaged

¹Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. (n.d.). Data center. Alaska Department of Education & Early Development.

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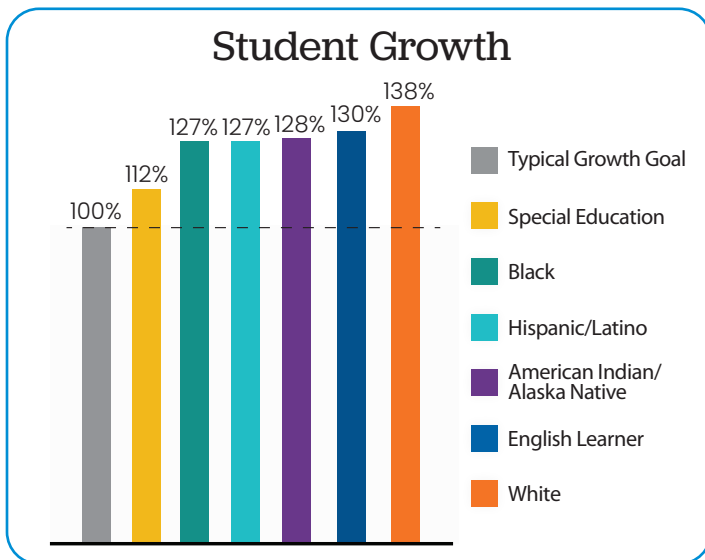
Mat-Su educators then devoted the first six weeks of the new school year’s professional learning community time to additional training opportunities, developing school-specific resources for teachers, and establishing dedicated literacy coaches at each school site.

Achievement increased beyond expectations. In just one year, students experienced remarkable reading gains, reaching significant milestones and supporting Mat-Su’s mission to set students on a path to grade-level proficiency.

Grade-Level Proficiency Climbs with Data-Informed Instruction

Mat-Su’s reading proficiency ascended across all grade levels and all student demographic groups. *Magnetic Reading’s* effectiveness, maximized by data-driven instructional practices, resulted in student proficiency soaring to new heights.

A key factor in the success of *Magnetic Reading* is its application of ongoing assessment. Real-time data and feedback serve as navigational instruments, enabling educators to adjust their instructional approach with pinpoint accuracy.



The Typical Growth goal is based on data from millions of students nationwide taking the i-Ready adaptive assessment. Typical Growth reflects the amount of growth an average student is expected to make from fall to spring. Across all Grades K–5 students, Mat-Su exceeded this goal by a stunning 37 percentage points during the first year of *Magnetic Reading* implementation—a testament to the fidelity of implementation and the dedication of the Mat-Su community.

“[Mat-Su] is pleased with the growth our students are showing, particularly because it is occurring across all grade levels and all demographics!”

—Dr. Randy Trani, Mat-Su Superintendent

Much like a pilot adjusting course based on changing weather conditions and air traffic information, this alignment of assessment data with instruction allows for differentiation. Students receive timely support, ensuring they are on the right path to proficiency.

Mat-Su’s Elementary Curriculum Coordinator, Jana DePriest, is optimistic about where Mat-Su will go from here:

“Embracing a new program is akin to taking flight for the first time: it’s natural to feel hesitant, anxious, and fearful of the unknown. I applaud our teachers for tackling the challenge of mastering a new program, trusting Curriculum Associates to guide our professional [learning], and empowering students to improve their reading skills. I’m fully on board and eagerly anticipating what [Mat-Su] and Curriculum Associates can accomplish this school year.”

Mat-Su’s *Magnetic Reading* success is the result of careful planning, instructional excellence, and the use of insights from actionable data.

With the program fully implemented and showing such positive outcomes, Mat-Su is well on its way to going from a good district to a great district, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to reach their fullest potential.

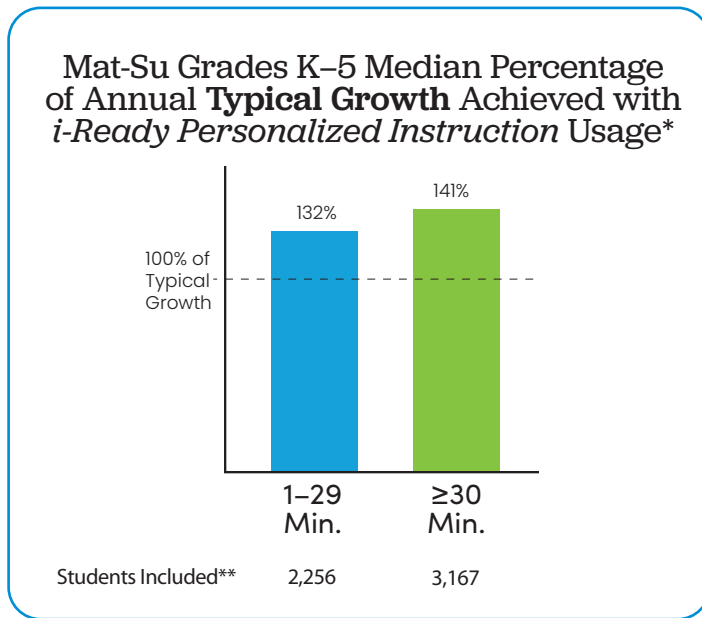
With *i-Ready Personalized Instruction*, Proficiency Takes Flight in Mat-Su

To complement teacher-led *Magnetic Reading* instruction, Mat-Su leverages the engaging online lessons in *i-Ready Personalized Instruction* to target domain-specific areas in which students need more support. *i-Ready* automatically creates individualized digital learning pathways that help students reach grade-level proficiency.

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i-Ready offers two perspectives on student progress. Typical Growth is the average growth of students for each grade and placement level. Stretch Growth® is an ambitious but attainable one- or multiyear growth goal that sets below-grade level students on a path toward proficiency and on-grade level students on a path toward advanced proficiency levels.

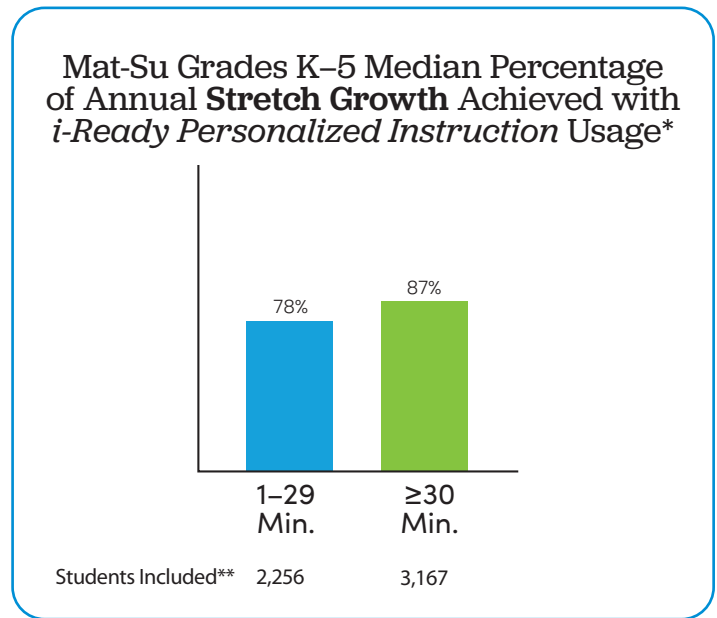
As illustrated in the figures below, students in Mat-Su who used *i-Ready Personalized Instruction* as recommended* showed greater gains toward both their Typical Growth and Stretch Growth targets.



Empowering Lifelong Learners

Curriculum Associates celebrates the innovation, hard work, and dedication of Mat-Su’s leaders, educators, school communities, and students.

We recognize the progress being made and express gratitude for our ability to support these efforts now and in the future with the shared goal of helping every student achieve their academic goals and potential.



“When I look at Stretch Growth, it makes me think of the adage, ‘You get more of what you pay attention to.’ Too often we are data rich and action poor, but now Mat-Su staff can attend to stretching student growth further because they have actionable data and accompanying tools at their fingertips. I hope our staff see this and feel proud of their work!”

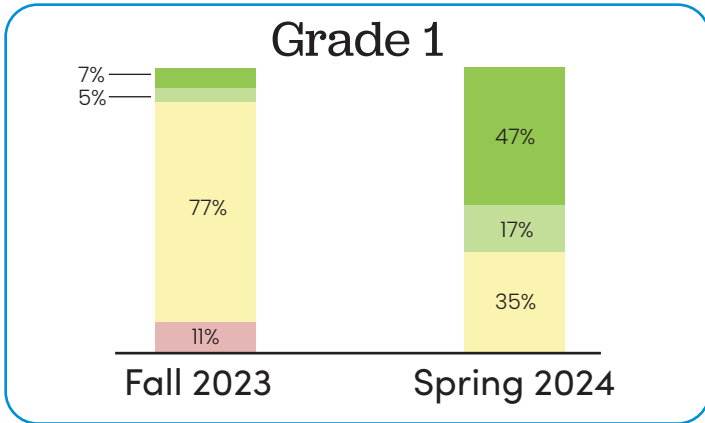
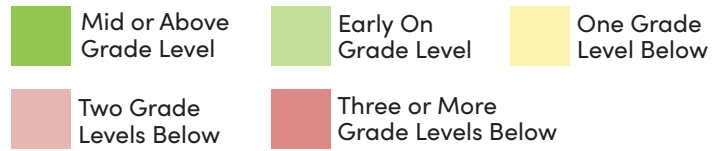
—Andrea Everett, Associate Superintendent, Office of Teaching & Learning

*The recommended average weekly usage of *i-Ready Personalized Instruction* is 30–49 minutes.

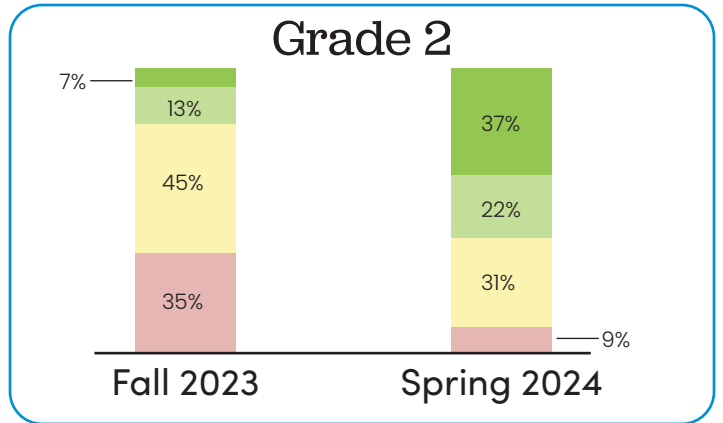
**Note: *N*-counts may vary across analysis due to business rules. Diagnostic performance includes only students who tested in both the fall and spring windows, where growth data includes students with any baseline Diagnostic and a Diagnostic during the spring window.

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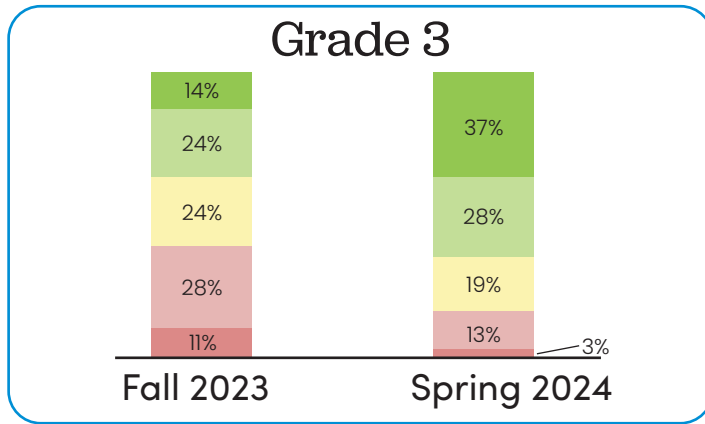
Appendix: Mat-Su Grades 1–5 Grade-Level Placement Changes, Fall to Spring, by Grade



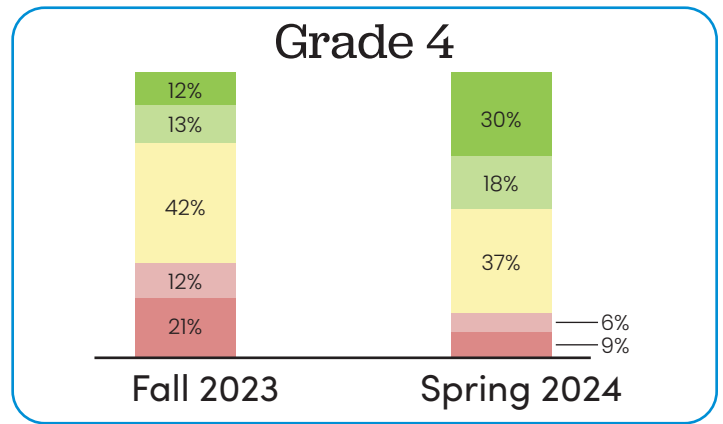
A better than 570-percent increase in the percentage of students performing mid or above grade level



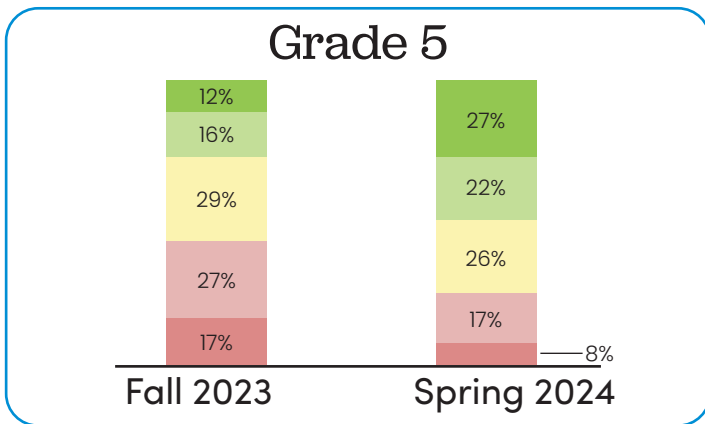
A better than 425-percent increase in the percentage of students performing mid or above grade level



A better than 160-percent increase in the percentage of students performing mid or above grade level



A 150-percent increase in the percentage of students performing mid or above grade level



A 125-percent increase in the percentage of students performing mid or above grade level

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EVIDENCE for ESSA
MEETS EVIDENCE STANDARDS

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



Perfect Scores on EdReports

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