


SUCCESS SNAPSHOT

i-Ready Lifts United ISD and Its Multilingual Learners to Even Higher Heights




“We are letting go of some other programs to make sure we’re implementing *i-Ready*.”

—Zaida Gonzalez, Elementary Director



United Ind. School District
(United ISD)

Grades Pre-K–12



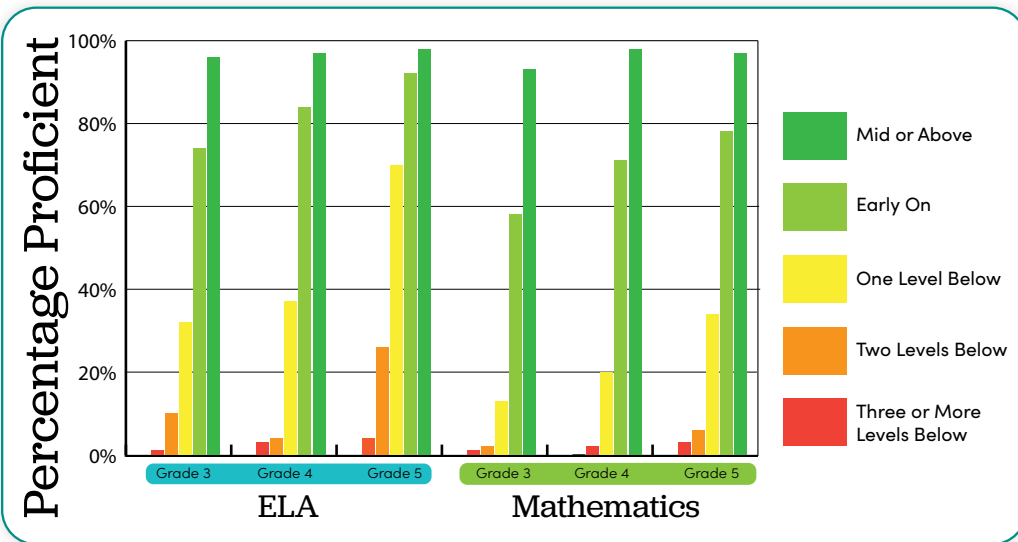
Hispanic/Latino
White, Black, Asian

1

Year of Using *i-Ready Diagnostic* and *i-Ready Personalized Instruction*

37%

of Students Are Multilingual Learners



Percentage of United ISD Grades 3–5 Students Who Met or Mastered Grade-Level Performance on the 2023 STAAR by Spring *i-Ready* Placement

The Correlation between *i-Ready Assessment* Scores and the STAAR

United ISD shares a border with Mexico and has a mission to prepare all their students to be highly successful, critical thinkers and effective problem solvers who are confident, self-motivated, and actively involved in the local and global community. During the 2022–2023 school year, United ISD added *i-Ready Diagnostic* and *i-Ready Personalized Instruction* for Mathematics and for Reading in Grades 3–5 across the district to their existing access to the Teacher Toolbox. The result? In 2023, they saw students who scored Mid or Above Grade Level on the spring *i-Ready Diagnostic* had a high probability of meeting or mastering grade-level performance on the STAAR, including 97 percent of students for English language arts and 96 percent of students for mathematics.

ENROLLMENT

43K

ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED

75.5%

GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL ON TIME

97.2%

“We love being able to make good decisions based on good data from *i-Ready*.”—Emma Leza, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

How United ISD Used *i-Ready* to Help Fulfill Its Commitment to Students

United ISD’s efforts to ensure all students receive high-quality, rigorous instruction have been rewarded with every campus receiving an A or B rating from the state accountability system.



Improving Data-Driven Instruction

The district scrutinizes their instructional resources every year,

which sometimes leads to new product trials and discontinuing existing products. While evaluating programs for the 2021–2022 school year, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Emma Leza and her team realized they needed to strengthen the connection between assessment and instruction. “Our teachers wanted an assessment with easy-to-read reports that included integrated instructional resources. That’s when we came across *i-Ready* from Curriculum Associates,” said Zaida Gonzalez, elementary director. “We got plenty of data from the other assessment tool but had to make it relatable to the teachers and make sure they understood where the students were, which took time and effort.”



What They Did

During the 2022–2023 school year, United ISD implemented *i-Ready Diagnostic* and *i-Ready Personalized*

Instruction for Mathematics and for Reading in Grades 3–5 across the district. Right away, they began to see a difference—not only in the students but also in the teachers. They discovered that the *i-Ready* data was very easy to interpret. Additionally, Gonzalez said, “We found . . . more and more teachers were conducting the *i-Ready [Diagnostic]* because they saw the alignment to the STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness).”

Making the connection between where each student needed to focus and the recommended instructional resources to address those needs impacted student growth, increased classroom proficiency, and saved time.



Prerequisite Skills Instruction

United ISD’s Grades 3–5 teachers also enjoy using *i-Ready*’s Teacher Toolbox. It’s a one-stop spot for engaging,

on-level, differentiated instructional resources with easy digital access to a curated collection of research-based, standards-aligned resources.

“As a border city, we have a lot of recent arrivals, and it’s important to teach them based on their unique needs. We find that, at times, we need to focus on prerequisite skills. So the toolbox allows our teachers to do that,” Gonzalez further explained.





Interventions

The impact of *i-Ready* interventions was the rationale for their decision to move forward with expanding implementation of *i-Ready*. “We want to make sure our reading interventionists and academic coordinators use it to provide students with unique, differentiated interventions based on where they are with their reading,” said Leza. “[i-Ready interventions](#) are very specific based on what individual students need. That was one of the reasons we decided to move forward with *i-Ready* for all our grade levels.”

District leaders keep an eye out for considerable use of certain *i-Ready* interventions. Monitoring these trends helps them determine student needs across all campuses and what the coordinators will cover with the teachers. “It’s all about alignment and making sure our teachers know where each student is struggling or where they’re doing really well. All of this ensures they can continue to accelerate instruction,” Leza added.



Spanish Resources

Since Laredo is on the Mexican border, the district works to ensure they provide the same [resources in Spanish](#)* and English. They recently participated in a study for the *i-Ready Diagnostic* in Spanish and volunteered to participate in a study for [Magnetic Reading™ Foundations](#)** in Spanish.



The Sky’s the Limit

United ISD shines as a beacon of what’s possible when everyone works together toward a common goal—and can access the right resources at the right time. Every day, they do whatever it takes to fulfill their promise of providing quality, rigorous instruction for all students. Their success with *i-Ready* proves its efficacy in promoting academic achievement, and no matter how large a district is or how well it’s doing—there’s always room for growth.

“We’re very big on making sure we are checking the impact of every program we use. I come from a business background, so (to me) the return on investment is improving students’ achievement scores. Are they progressing? Are they meeting their full learning potential? Every program needs to have a very positive learning return on investment for our students.”

—Emma Leza, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

*Curriculum Associates offers many assessment and instructional programs to support Spanish-speaking English Learners in achieving academic success.

***Magnetic Reading Foundations* is a Grades K–2 foundational skills reading program from Curriculum Associates based on the Science of Reading that teaches reading fundamentals and comprehension.