Students at Georgia School District Embrace Unique Learning Pathways
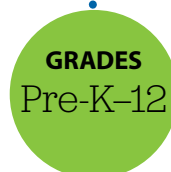
Savannah-Chatham County Public School System

The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) is the 10th largest school district in Georgia, and the district's educators are committed to preparing every one of their nearly 36,000 students for a productive future.

As part of this commitment, Krystal Bell and the Transformation Team, along with SCCPSS leaders, decided to bridge students' learning gaps by implementing *i-Ready Assessment* and *i-Ready Personalized Instruction* in 2018 as a supplemental program in a select group of schools.

After students took the *i-Ready Diagnostic*, their data was connected to individual learning pathways in *i-Ready Personalized Instruction*, giving students access to the online lessons they each needed to advance them toward grade-level learning. The supplemental program was a success on many fronts. Students experienced learning growth, and teachers were thrilled with *i-Ready*'s easy-to-use reports and actionable data that enabled them to meet students' unique needs.

Based on students' results and teachers' enthusiasm, the district rolled out the program to all students in Grades K–8 in January 2021.

STUDENTS
35,925

GRADES
Pre-K–12

TITLE I
60%

GRADUATION RATE
90%

> *"From a district perspective, the data we pulled from i-Ready grounded every program and initiative we had in place. Now that every elementary and K–8 school had i-Ready, each student and teacher was on a level playing field."*
>
> —**Lesley Taylor**

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What They Did

i-Ready quickly became an equitable resource across SCCPSS.

Classroom Instruction

According to Julian Childers, interim associate superintendent of school transformation and innovation, students used *i-Ready Personalized Instruction* for 45 minutes of math and reading instruction weekly. When Andrea Burkiett, director of curriculum for Grades K–5, visited a Grade 4 classroom in which students were using *i-Ready Personalized Instruction*, she noticed that students were engaged, and the stigma around having different learning needs and doing different work didn't exist.

Professional Learning

"The professional learning provided by the *i-Ready* team enables administrators and teachers to gain a clear understanding of all the components of the *i-Ready* platform," said Kaye Aikens, associate superintendent of elementary and Grades K–8. "Our teachers saw the alignment between their lessons and how *i-Ready* supported students," said Lesley Taylor, director of school improvement. "They were able to dig into the data and use it during small group instruction."

i-Ready also helped SCCPSS' principals become stronger instructional leaders. Renee Bryant-Evans, interim senior officer of school transformation and innovation, noted, "Our principals learned to review data and incorporate it in their leadership team meetings and also paid closer attention to what was happening in small groups."

Childers added that *i-Ready* offered embedded professional resources for the entire instructional staff. "*i-Ready Central*® has templates that we shared across the district. These tools allowed us to discuss how to make the program work best for our principals, our teachers, and our students."

Family Engagement

SCCPSS relied on *i-Ready* resources to help families understand their students' learning progress. *i-Ready*'s reports in particular proved to be valuable tools when it came to students communicating their math and reading goals at home. "From the most educated parent to those with less education, they all appreciated the simplicity of *i-Ready*'s green, yellow, and red indicators on the reports," said Taylor.

> *"I actually love small group time because I get to go on* i-Ready. *I love* i-Ready *because I learned a lot."*
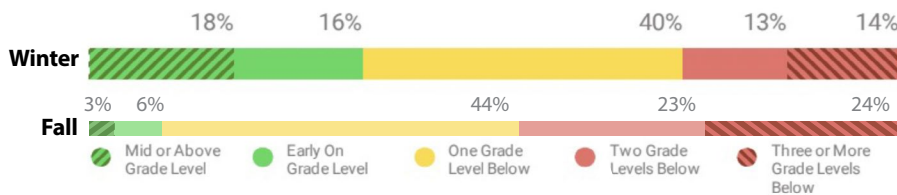> —**SCCPSS Student**

What They Accomplished

Childers and SCCPSS' academic team credited *i-Ready* with helping teachers develop additional instructional strategies to support their students. The program gave principals a resource to have meaningful conversations around gaps and offered the district a systemwide approach to monitoring student performance and standards mastery. Plus, the program provided both elementary and Grades K–8 principals timely data on individual student growth throughout the entire school year.
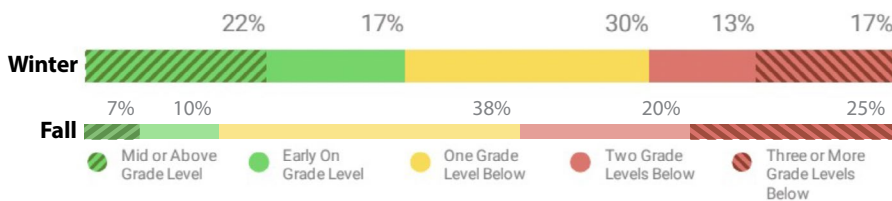
> *"i-Ready has changed our lives over here in the elementary K–8 world."*
>
> —**Lesley Taylor**

Math Assessments during the 2021–2022 School Year

Winter	18%	16%	40%	13%	14%
Fall	3% 6%		44%	23%	24%

Legend: Mid or Above Grade Level · Early On Grade Level · One Grade Level Below · Two Grade Levels Below · Three or More Grade Levels Below

Reading Assessments during the 2021–2022 School Year

Winter	22%	17%	30%	13%	17%
Fall	7% 10%		38%	20%	25%

Legend: Mid or Above Grade Level · Early On Grade Level · One Grade Level Below · Two Grade Levels Below · Three or More Grade Levels Below

Based on the success of *i-Ready* during the school year, the district made the program part of its summer school initiative across all elementary schools. Additionally, *i-Ready* helped SCCPSS meet one of its performance objectives as part of its five-year strategic plan, which was to improve the integrity and fidelity of implementation of cohesive, districtwide curriculum frameworks, instructional delivery, and assessment. "When you are the 10th largest school system in your state, you've got to have an effective tool in order to be able to do that, and that's definitely what *i-Ready* brings to the table for us," said Burkiett. "It has made monitoring that particular objective easy and strategic. It makes sense to the teachers because the program was embedded in their daily instructional routines. And it made it easier for us to make district-level decisions to improve the integrity and fidelity of our instruction."

To support the district, the *i-Ready* team presented to the school board about the benefits to students, helped collect and disaggregate *i-Ready* data for the district's Data and Accountability team, and provided extra support to the Academic Affairs team.

Most important is the impact *i-Ready* has had on student performance. Halfway through the 2021–2022 school year, students at all placement levels made gains in math and reading. The majority of SCCPSS elementary and Grades K–8 schools—some of which have historically struggled academically—were able to celebrate that at least 50 percent of students improved their *i-Ready* placement levels for math and reading.

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