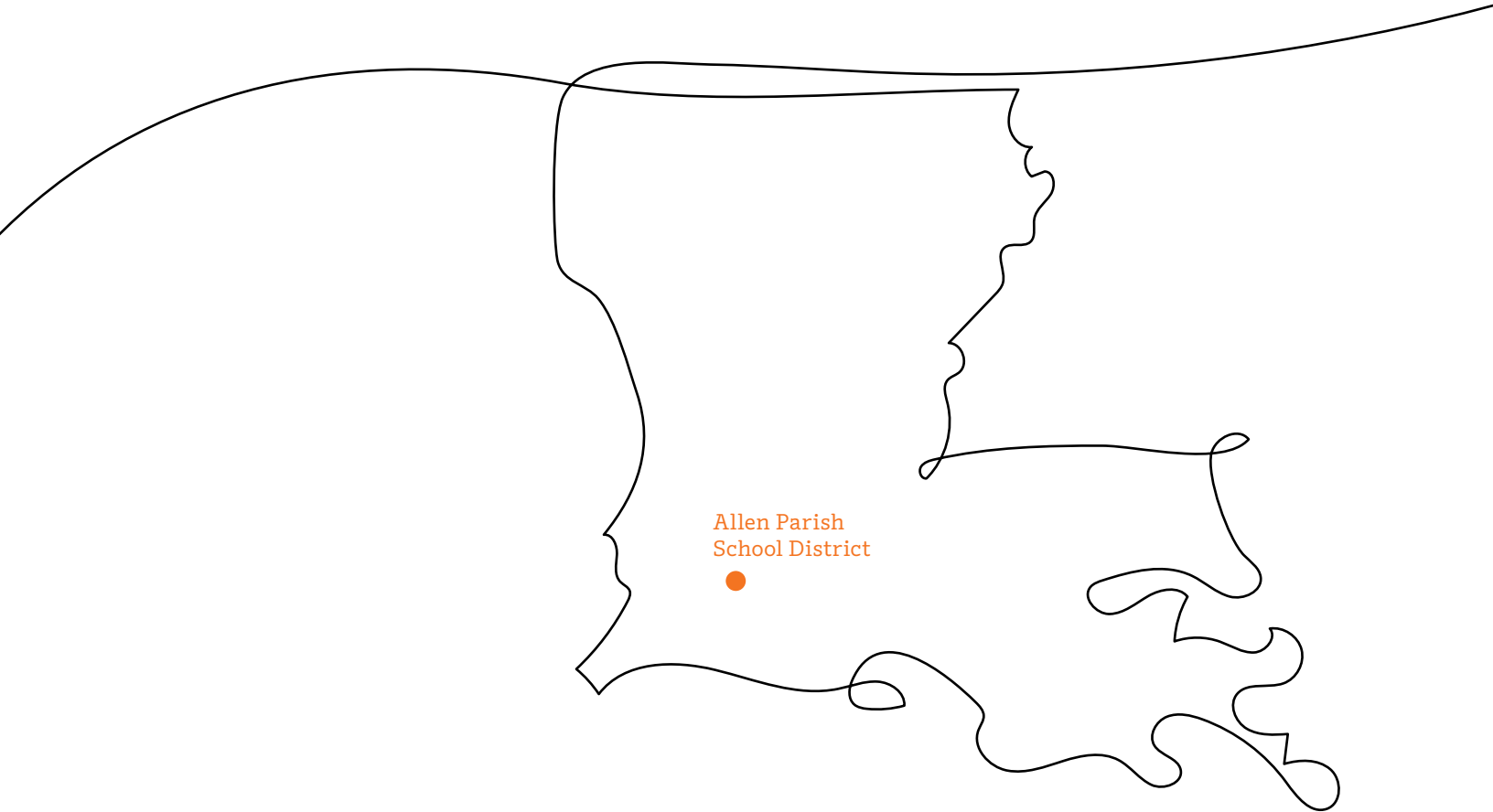


# Making the shift to the Science of Reading

Louisiana's Allen Parish School District surpasses state averages with Amplify CKLA and mCLASS.



# Background

The student body at the 11 public schools served by Allen Parish in Oberlin, Louisiana is 72.3% white, 18.5% Black, 1.8% Hispanic/Latino, 1% Indian/Alaskan Native, and 0.5% Asian or Asian/Pacific Islander. In addition, 5.9% of students are of two or more races. In this district, 66.6% of students are eligible for the federal free or reduced price lunch program.



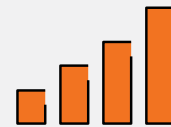
## Challenge

Allen Parish faced third-grade LEAP scores below the state average and uncovered foundational literacy gaps among middle and high school students.



## Solution

The district adopted Amplify's mCLASS® and CKLA, emphasizing data-driven instruction and consistent teacher support.



## Impact

With Amplify's support, Allen Parish's third-grade LEAP scores improved by 19 points, surpassing state averages, and K–3 students also showed significant growth.

# Challenge

From 2021 to 2023, Allen Parish found their third-grade LEAP scores hovering just below the state average. Initially, the district concentrated its literacy and intervention efforts on middle schools, then gradually moved to elementary and high schools. This strategic shift unveiled foundational gaps in literacy skills. "We had two middle schools that were not performing, and it was after COVID," explained Stacy Weldon, Literacy Coordinator. "Students entering those middle schools lacked the literacy foundation we knew was necessary." In response to these

challenges, Weldon and Federal Programs Director Misty Alexander dedicated the 2024–25 school year to K–2, adopting a focused approach with the mCLASS and Amplify Core Language Arts (CKLA) assessment and instructional systems.

# Solution

The district's pathway to Amplify began with an intense dive into the curriculum, classrooms, and crucial assessments. And because Allen Parish was already using the Amplify mCLASS literacy screener, a natural next step was exploring the aligned core program, Amplify CKLA. Though Weldon and Alexander were not part of CKLA's initial rollout, they swiftly familiarized themselves with its scope. "We've been really focused on learning that curriculum and how it unfolds," noted Misty Alexander. They noticed disparities in how teachers used the resources, especially in interventions, as opposed to core instruction.

Allen Parish prioritized providing teachers with guidance, understanding of CKLA, and consistent support. Structures were developed around the use of data and its continuous improvement, leading to regular district-level

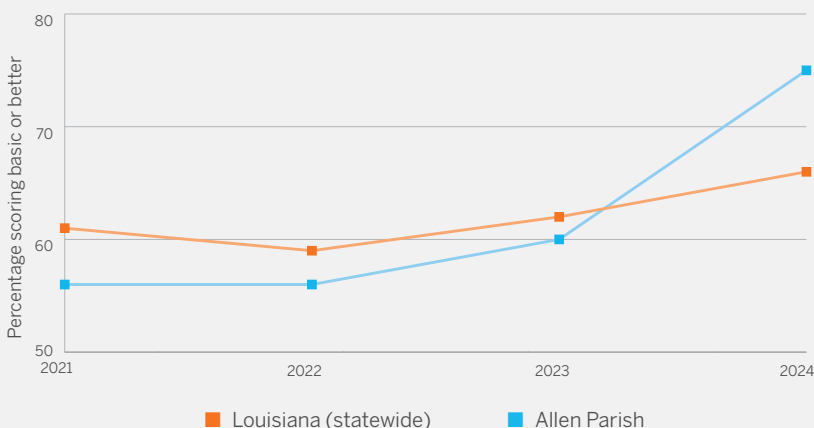
discussions facilitated by this data. Administrators established non-negotiables for classroom instruction, such as using Amplify slides and deploying CKLA manipulatives (such as Chaining Folders, Word Walls, Sound Walls, and Spelling Trees) effectively.

Attaining teacher buy-in was crucial. "I want teachers to feel valued and supported when they're implementing literacy instruction," Weldon said. The district's efforts were bolstered by a robust team comprising teachers, principals, a Title 1 coordinator, and a family liaison, all leveraging mCLASS data and resources to foster both in-school and home-based learning. "Amplify has been really good," Weldon reflected. "They help us create our data decks, and we can share them with our principals in our district."

# Impact

Allen Parish has witnessed significant growth over the past few years. By 2024, with Amplify's support, the district's third-grade LEAP scores not only caught up to but surpassed the state average, marking a 19-percentage-point improvement from 56% to 75%.

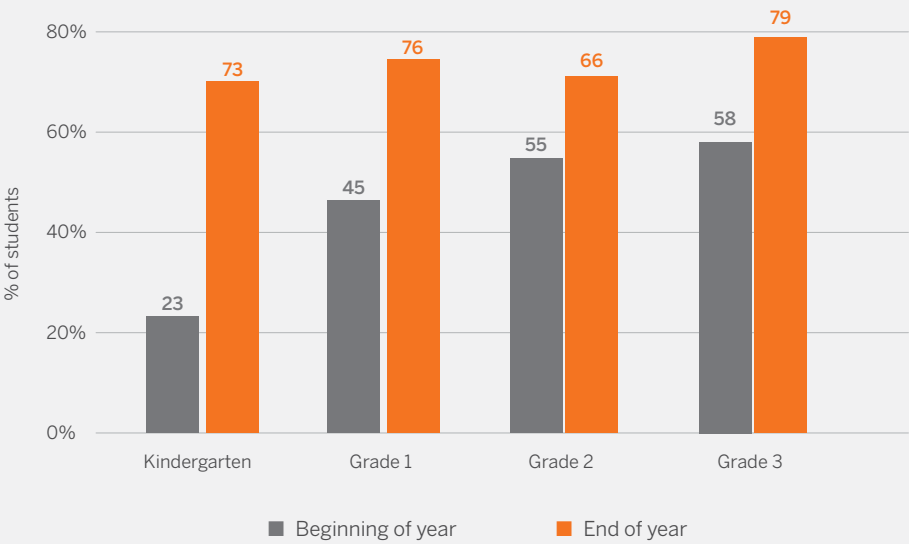
LEAP performance trends, grade 3



Zooming in on this past year, strong growth in K–2 students is evident. Weldon noted, “The conversation in our district includes even our superintendent receiving texts from principals like, ‘Hey, go look at our data. Look how much our kids have grown.’” Early literacy initiatives focusing on letter names and sounds in kindergarten are yielding especially significant returns. “In various schools, where they really bought into the conversations we had and looked at the data, that’s where their kids are really strong now,” Alexander commented. As a result of data-informed interventions, the district has seen a significant drop in the number of at-risk third graders. “At the middle of the year, we had 51 or 52 kids below benchmark; now, we’re down to 22,” Alexander said.

By the end of the 2024–25 school year, the mCLASS results confirmed the district’s experiences: students from kindergarten through third grade made significant gains. Most notably, kindergarten saw 73% of students ending the year at or above the benchmark, compared to just 23% at the start of the year.

**Allen Parish School District students scoring at or above benchmark in mCLASS in the 2024–25 school year**



# Conclusion

Reflecting on their journey, Allen Parish administrators are committed to expanding their CKLA Skills block to 75 minutes and incorporating more small-group interventions. Summer will be a period of professional development, focusing on areas in which the data indicates need, such as phonemic awareness. Weldon said optimistically, “If that LEAP data matches our literacy data this year, we should see phenomenal growth in our scores.” Alexander added, “We’re very excited about the progress our students are making, and that is all about our teachers taking hold of the work, and really being about kids and paying attention to their data.”

Allen Parish’s story underscores the transformative power of a focused, data-driven approach, with Amplify’s mCLASS and CKLA products at its core. Its journey serves as an inspiring testament to both current and prospective Amplify customers, highlighting the potential positive transformation when strategic implementation is paired with dedicated support.

For more information about  
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suite based on the Science of Reading,  
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