

Making the shift to the Science of Reading

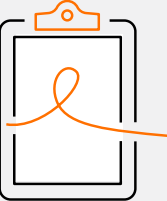
Buckeye Valley LSD in Ohio increases kindergarten benchmark scores by 53% using Amplify's literacy suite.



Buckeye Valley
Local School District

Background

Buckeye Valley Local School District in Delaware, OH, serves nearly 2,300 students. The student body is 89.1% white, 3.7% Hispanic/Latino, 1.1% Asian or Asian/Pacific Islander, 0.9% Black, and 0.1% American Indian or Alaska Native. In addition, 5.1% of students self-identify as two or more races. Overall, 11.1% of the district's students are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.



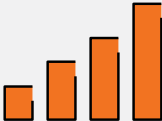
Challenge

The district's literacy programs were disjointed, resulting in disappointing student learning outcomes.



Solution

Buckeye Valley selected Amplify's integrated suite, which includes Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA), mCLASS®, and Boost Reading, for a comprehensive and connected literacy system.



Impact

In the first year of implementing the suite, nearly every grade at Buckeye Valley demonstrated significant growth.

Challenge

Leaders at Buckeye Valley were growing tired of coping with a disconnected system of literacy programs. Brian Orrenmaa, Chief of Academic Affairs, said, "We knew that whatever we went with, we wanted to do it in totality; we didn't want to do it piecemeal. At times, our district, as with many districts, would purchase the core program, but not other supplemental materials or supports, and we'd get something else and get upset when it won't play well together or when it offers different messaging."

Solution

When Buckeye Valley decided it was time for a change, the leadership team began reviewing core curricula grounded in the Science of Reading, eventually narrowing their options to two main choices. After visiting other Ohio schools utilizing these curricula and gathering feedback, Buckeye Valley's principals and teachers overwhelmingly favored choosing CKLA.

While there was widespread enthusiasm for the decision to use CKLA, there were also concerns about how to get students prepared for this shift in instruction and rigor. The Buckeye Valley team decided to offer students access to Boost Reading over the summer, before implementing CKLA. To prepare, instructors cycled through classrooms, showing students how to log in and providing them with explanatory letters to bring home. The initial launch in classrooms also ensured that students were placed properly within the program. The district also incentivized summer usage, promising ice pops for students who met certain usage targets upon their return to school in the fall. Attaining familiarity with Boost Reading over the summer also meant that students wasted no time getting their personalized practice in the new school year—a strategy we know is key to student success.

The leadership team also made sure that older worksheets, lessons, and tools not grounded in the Science of Reading were removed from classrooms. Administrators wanted to encourage teachers to stick to research-based practices and the highest quality instructional materials.



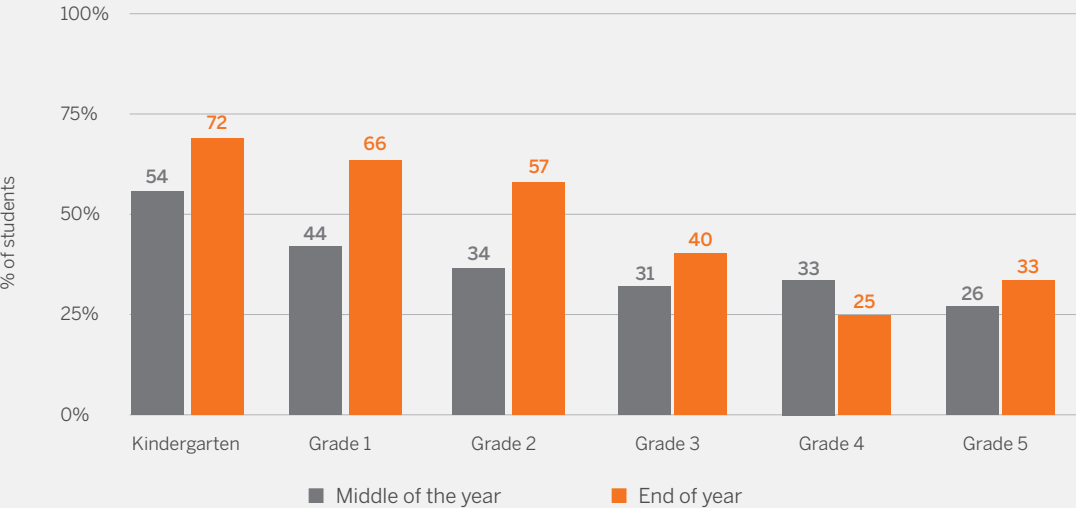
One thing I have heard time and time again from teachers is how much students are retaining the information from the knowledge lessons and sharing that with their families at home. ... That background knowledge component is definitely coming through loud and clear. I would say two thumbs way up from that perspective.

Emily Contini, Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Specialist

Impact

In their first year of implementing mCLASS, CKLA, and Boost Reading, almost every grade at Buckeye Valley showed significant growth in students at or above benchmark on the DIBELS® assessment between the middle and end of the school year. Growth was particularly remarkable in second grade, with 23% more students ending the year at or above grade level. Buckeye Valley fourth grade students did see the same dip that we have been seeing nationally.

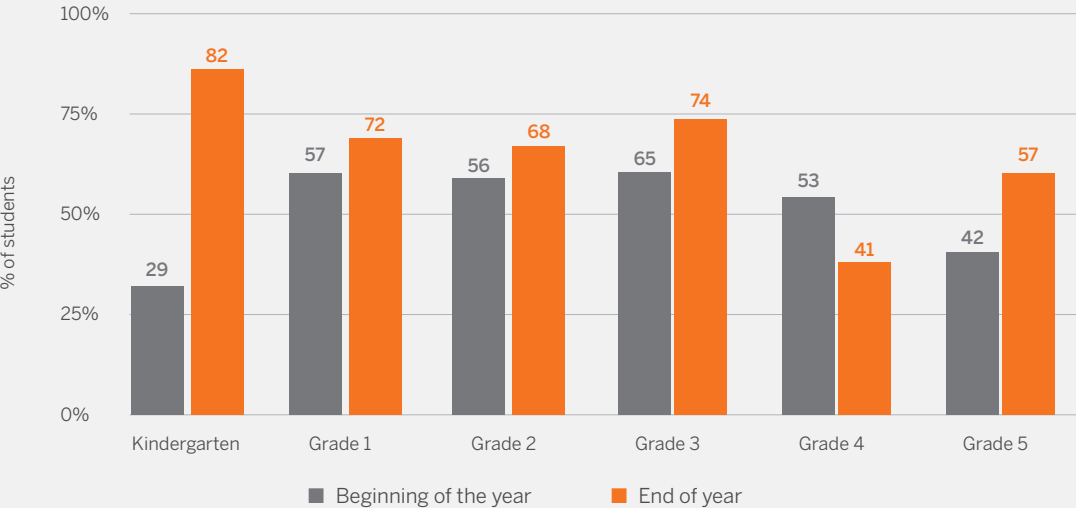
Buckeye Valley Local School District students scoring at or above benchmark in the 2023–24 school year



mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition data, 2023–24

The second year of implementing Amplify’s early literacy suite showed continued growth in almost all grades. The most significant improvement was observed in kindergarten, where 82% of students ended the year at or above grade level, compared to just 29% at the beginning of the school year. Additionally, first, second, third, and fifth grades saw impressive growth, with increases ranging from 9% to 23%.

Buckeye Valley Local School District students scoring at or above benchmark in the 2024–25 school year



mCLASS with DIVELS 8th Edition, 2024–25

Conclusion

Buckeye Valley Local School District’s comprehensive adoption of Amplify’s suite has led to notable literacy improvements across multiple grades and years, underscoring the effectiveness of a cohesive, research-based approach and the dedication of passionate educators. With these impressive gains, the district is well-positioned for continued growth and success in the years ahead.

For more information about
Amplify's complete early literacy
suite based on the Science of Reading,
visit **[amplify.com](https://www.amplify.com)**.

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