

# Making the shift to the Science of Reading

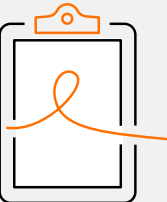
Ohio's Lakewood Local School District increases kindergarten reading proficiency by 57% in just one year with Amplify's comprehensive literacy suite.



Lakewood Local  
School District

# Background

Lakewood is a small district in Licking County, OH, serving nearly 1,700 students. The student body is 91.8% White, 2.4% Hispanic or Latino, 0.7% Black, 0.8% Asian or Asian/Pacific Islander, and 0.4% American Indian or Alaska Native. At schools in Lakewood, 28% of students are eligible to participate in the federal free and reduced price meal plan.



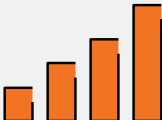
## Challenge

Following a new state dyslexia support law, Lakewood found its assessments inadequate for identifying foundational skills gaps impacting student development.



## Solution

A comprehensive team revamped Lakewood's literacy suite, selecting mCLASS®, mCLASS Intervention, CKLA, and Boost Reading, with new literacy blocks and teacher training aligned to the programs.



## Impact

In its first year using Amplify's suite, Lakewood saw significant growth, with 57% more kindergarteners at grade level. Growth continued to soar in Year 2.

# Challenge

When Ohio passed a law in 2021 with new requirements for supporting students with dyslexia, Lakewood began to reevaluate its early literacy system. As administrators learned more about the Science of Reading, they realized that their assessment program was not meeting their needs. While it showed whether students were meeting state standards, it didn't offer a rich analysis of specific skill acquisitions and gaps, especially in foundational skills.

# Solution

## Reevaluating the early literacy suite

Lakewood created a literacy committee—a mix of teachers, coaches, reading specialists, principals, and the Director of Teaching and Learning—to review different screeners. The committee decided on mCLASS and shared the decision with the district's grade-level teams. At the time, teachers had also begun receiving professional development on different approaches to dyslexia, so they were primed for foundational understanding about the need to make wide-ranging curricular and assessment changes.

As the members of the literacy committee were communicating about the shift to mCLASS, they also shared information about adding Boost Reading and mCLASS Intervention, including when and how these programs were meant to be used in the instructional day. Ohio strongly recommends a 30-minute intervention block, so teachers welcomed the update.

In parallel, the literacy committee spent two years vetting ELA programs and doing the research to make an informed and critical decision about core programs. Committee members engaged teachers and the community throughout the review process and ultimately decided on CKLA.

## Implementing Amplify's early literacy suite

The district took a number of critical steps in setting up their new implementation for success. Administrators ensured that teachers had multiple avenues for training in the Science of Reading, addressing dyslexia and other reading challenges, and getting the most from their new Amplify programs. They adjusted schools' literacy blocks to accommodate CKLA's instructional recommendations. And they emphasized fidelity of implementation alongside productive struggle. They celebrated teachers' efforts to get familiar with the program and keep up with its pace.

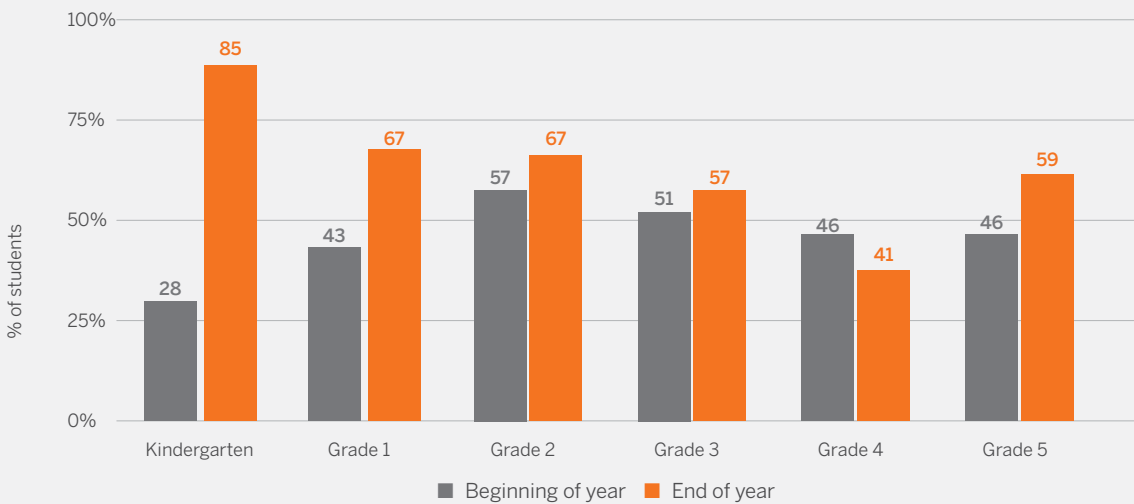
The ease of use and navigation between mCLASS and Boost Reading were also critical to implementing the full suite, and administrators noted how much more students enjoyed Boost Reading than previous personalized learning programs. Students loved Boost Reading's personalized practice during most daily intervention blocks, while teachers loved the prescriptiveness of the data provided by mCLASS. Teachers also found themselves better able to understand and support their students' needs.



# Impact

In their first year of implementing mCLASS, mCLASS Intervention, CKLA and Boost Reading, almost every grade at Lakewood Local showed significant growth in students at or above benchmark on the DIBELS assessment between the beginning and end of the school year. Growth was particularly remarkable in kindergarten, with 57% more students ending the year at or above grade level.

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



mCLASS with DIBELS® 8th Edition data, 2023–24

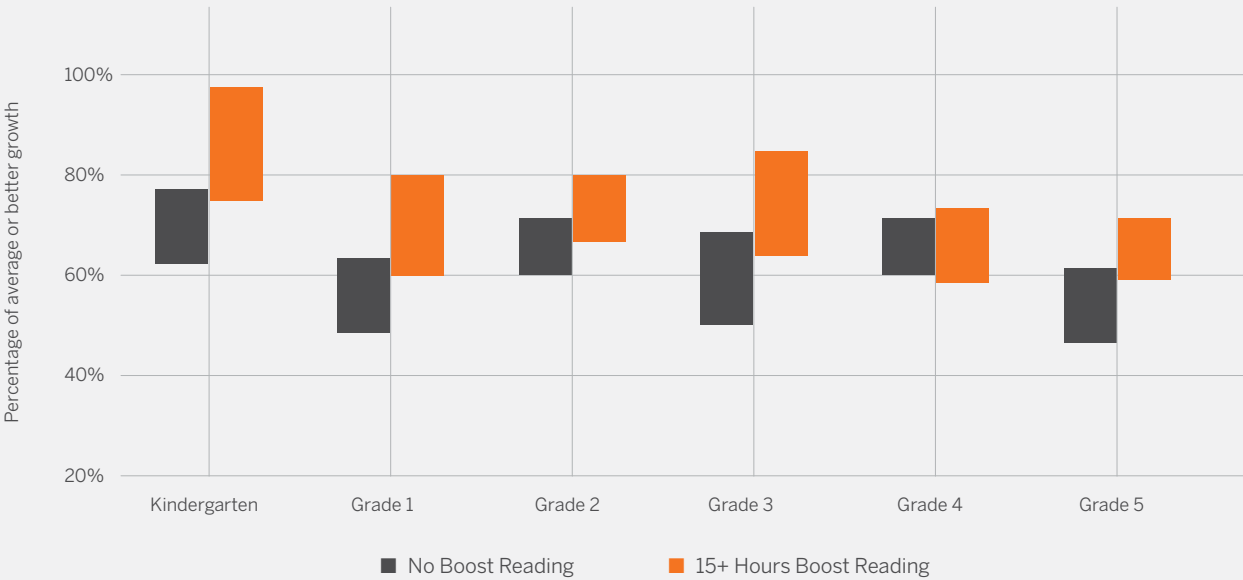
“Our success with Boost was that the kids were really engaged in it. It’s entertaining, but they’re learning at the same time.”

Beth Cline, Grades 3–5 Principal

When it came to Boost Reading usage and growth, nearly 100% of kindergarteners, first graders, and second graders met the usage target of 15 hours. (This is the minimum amount of time students need to spend on Boost Reading to see growth in a given school year.) Also impressive was that over half of third, fourth, and fifth graders met the 15-hour usage target as well.

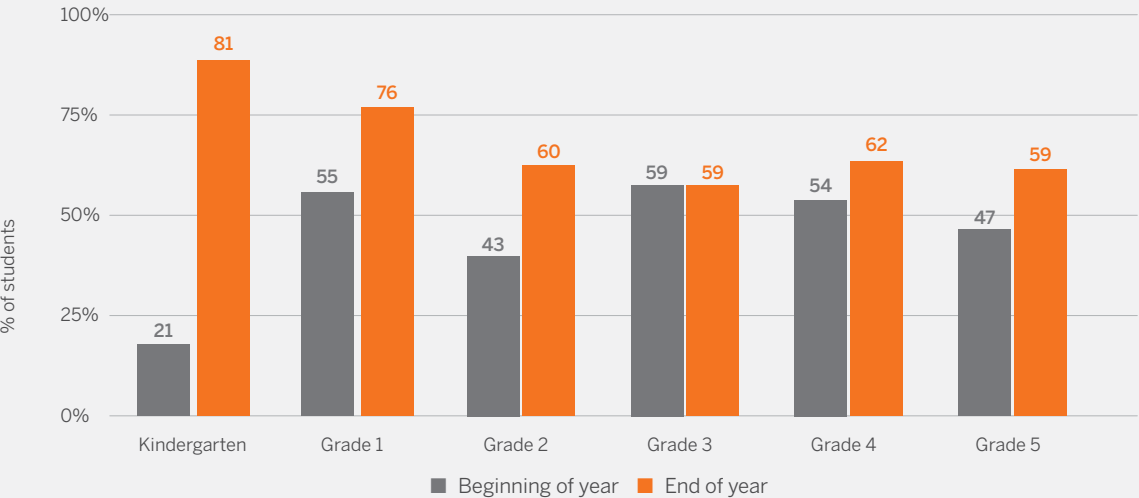
Kindergarteners who used Boost Reading and met the 15-hour target were 22% more likely to achieve average or better growth than similar students who did not use Boost Reading.

**Boost Reading impact in Lakewood, OH**



Lakewood’s success continued in 2024–25, their second year using Amplify’s early literacy suite. The most significant growth was in kindergarten, where 81% of students ended the year at or above benchmark, compared to 21% at the start. First, second, fourth, and fifth grades also saw impressive increases, ranging from 8% to 21%.

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



mCLASS with DIBELS® 8th Edition data, 2024–25

# Conclusion

Lakewood Local School District has achieved remarkable success in transforming its early literacy programs, evidenced by significant growth in DIBELS assessment scores across nearly all grade levels, especially kindergarten. With a strong commitment to its teachers and the effective use of Amplify’s literacy suite, the district is well-positioned for continued growth and improvement in reading proficiency in the coming years. As Lakewood continues to prioritize teacher training and evidence-based instructional methods, it remains determined to foster an enriching and effective learning environment for all students.

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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