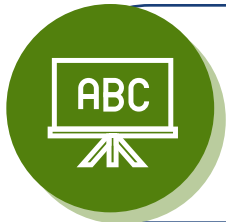




institute for
multi-sensory
education



CASE STUDY

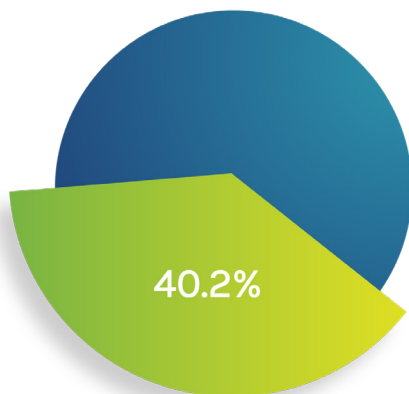


Hancock County Schools

Hawesville, Kentucky

Hancock County Schools (HCS) in Hawesville, Kentucky includes 4 schools serving approximately 1,600 students. 40.2% of the district's students qualify for free or reduced-price meals, and its minority enrollment is 10%. Consistently one of the top-scoring districts in the state over the last decade, HCS is a leader in providing effective education aligned with evidence-based best practices.

Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligible %



4 Schools

1,627 Students

Grades Pre-K - 12



CHALLENGE

In 2021, with over half of its students unable to read at grade level, and with scores stagnating, HCS began exploring different strategies to address literacy deficits. The district soon sensed that effective teacher training could be the key to improvement.

"Programs don't teach, but teachers do. So we had to provide a knowledge base that would allow our teachers to understand the whys and hows of the important changes we wanted to make."

Robin Poynter
Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
and Assessments

Once HCS found the science of reading, administrators and teachers realized they had been teaching literacy the wrong way. This sparked a sense of urgency to put things right, but teachers didn't know how to implement the new framework they felt held the answer for their students.

Luckily, HCS then discovered IMSE, and with its proven Structured Literacy approaches bridging the gap between theory and practice, the district began to form the foundation, understanding, and curriculum for rapid and substantial literacy gains.



SOLUTION

HCS Superintendent Robby Asberry made his dream of a switch to IMSE a reality. As the father of a child with dyslexia, Asberry understood how important early, effective interventions are for struggling readers. His son had to wait three years and seek help at an out-of-school learning center before he began to read at grade level. Asberry was determined not to watch HCS students struggle in the same way. He supported HCS's literacy initiative from day one and worked to secure vital resources for new personnel and training throughout the district.

HCS began to send its teachers through IMSE's Comprehensive Orton-Gillingham Plus course, with North and South Hancock Elementary School adding the Morphology Plus course later. Today, 100% of HCS pre-K - 5th-grade teachers have taken an IMSE training, while in grades 6-12, the district embeds reading interventionists who have completed IMSE's Comprehensive OG+, Intermediate, and Morphology courses.

Encouraged by the enhanced success that North and South Hancock Elementary School saw, starting in the 24-25 school year the district will require the Morphology Plus training for all teachers in grades 3-10.

From initial training experiences in year one to working toward 100% teacher training, and then vertically implementing IMSE with fidelity for grades K-5, the district has observed the impact along the way and watched as students have become more engaged and confident readers.

Overall, the difference the IMSE initiative has made for students at HCS exceeds averages in the state and the nation by an order of magnitude. Other educators have taken note and HCS has hosted visitors from all around Kentucky to observe HCS classrooms and the sizeable progress in implementing Structured Literacy in such a short amount of time.

"IMSE has taken the Orton-Gillingham method and turned it into a system designed for easy application in the classroom. The step-by-step approach accommodates teachers and allows students to gain confidence quickly."

Briana Pulliam
District Structured Literacy Specialist,
C-SLDS IMSE Orton-Gillingham Certified Specialist

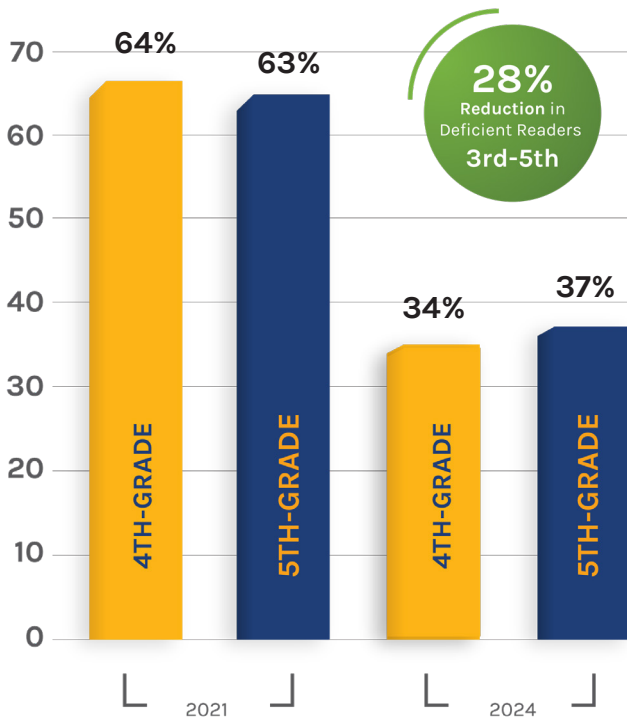


RESULTS

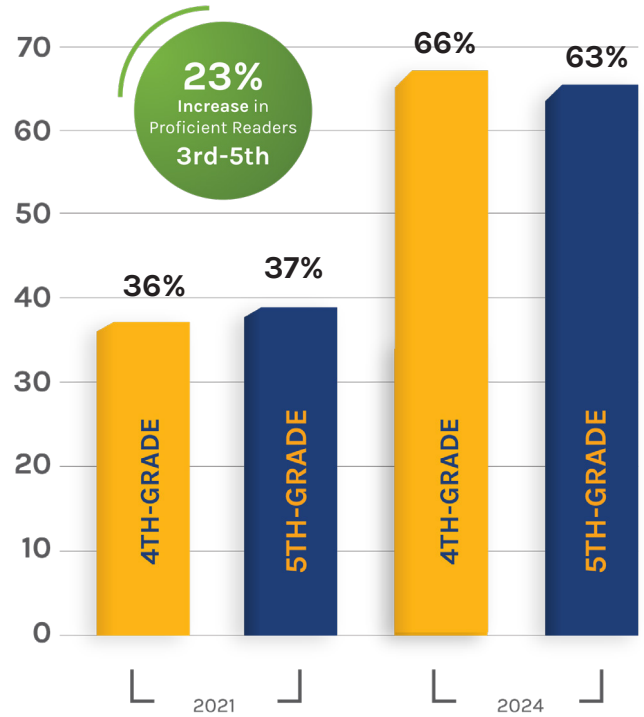
From 2021 to 2024, HCS students have made huge strides in their literacy journey, with improvements above 20% in multiple metrics, compared to an average 2% annual increase in reading proficiency for U.S. students, according to the [2023 NAEP Report Card](#). The results were especially dramatic for North and South Hancock Elementary School.

Data is from the NWEA MAP Assessments administered by HCS three times a year as a universal assessment.

North and South Hancock Elementary School Deficient Readers



North and South Hancock Elementary School Proficient Readers



"IMSE is the backbone of our success. We already knew the philosophy of the science of reading, but IMSE gave us the methodology our teachers needed to use in the classroom...it's beautiful to see how IMSE's explicit instructional strategies build on each other from one grade to the next."

Robin Poynter

With IMSE-trained teachers guiding students through a consistent Structured Literacy curriculum throughout their K-12 experience, HCS is now positioned to solve the literacy crisis and give its students the wealth of opportunities that come from literacy in adulthood.

ABOUT IMSE

IMSE is an education pioneer and the leading provider of Structured Literacy solutions based on the Science of Reading that incorporates the Orton-Gillingham methodology and all five pillars of literacy to empower teachers from day one.

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Contact info@imse.com to learn more about our work with school districts around the country.