



2,754
STUDENTS



**FREE AND
REDUCED LUNCH**

39%



ENGLISH LEARNERS

3%



SPECIAL EDUCATION

10%

STRUGGLING READERS EXCEED EXPECTATIONS FOR FSA PERFORMANCE

Introduction

At the start of the 2017 school year, West Broward High School began a school-wide initiative with the aim to increase learning gains for students with scores of levels one or two on the Florida State Assessment. They set a goal for the students to improve their scores and demonstrate growth in reading and English language arts by three percent as compared to the previous year.

West Broward High School is one of the newer schools in the district, with a forward-thinking approach to technology. In the Reading Department, every student works on a laptop. The Achieve3000 platform was easily adopted as part of their blended learning culture. Even so, the faculty did experience more than the typical challenges when trying to integrate new technologies and curricula into an existing school culture.

Shifting Attitudes and Behaviors with Encouragement and Appreciation

According to Elizabeth Rivero, Literacy Coach and Reading Department Chair, the school started using the Achieve 3000 platform in September 2017 as part of its strategy to improve learning gains for the struggling readers. With Hurricane Irma hitting South Florida, two school tragedies and a tragedy in the district, the staff had to persevere to support students. "In the beginning, my teachers were at times skeptical. They didn't see how it was going to effectively increase scores. They felt like it might be 'just another program'."

Then, after the first nine weeks, Ms. Rivero started sending the Reading teachers data and kudos on student growth. Students and teachers became more enthusiastic and committed once they saw the growth. As Coach, Ms. Rivero also had to manage expectations and communication with concerned parents to assure them that their students were on track with their students' learning goals. "Once I explained to a parent, using Lexile measures, how much their child needed to improve their reading skills to graduate high school and be ready for college or a career, they were fully on board with the program."

2017-2018 IMPLEMENTATION



629 STUDENTS

40L



EXPECTED LEXILE GROWTH



66L

ACTUAL LEXILE GROWTH



AVERAGE
ACTIVITIES
PER STUDENT

Engagement as the Key to Achievement

Learning gains for the lowest quartile of students went from 39% in 2017 to 49% in 2018. This group included Exceptional Students Learning Supports and English language learners. "All of our lowest quartile students were using Achieve 3000, and instead of meeting our goal of decreasing the number of students in the lowest quartile by three percent and helping them achieve learning gains, we exceeded it with ten percent more of our students increasing their scores and showing learning gains."

Rivero went on to say that she understands that Achieve3000's literacy solutions were one part of the multiple initiatives used at West Broward High School to improve reading and that they use other programs to support teachers. Even though, "it is a part of a bigger team effort", she thinks that Achieve3000, "was the thing that gave the students who were struggling with reading the stamina, confidence, and endurance to compete and succeed on their end-of-year state tests."

Principal Brad Fatout was very happy with the results and the work of his dedicated faculty, "I am extremely honored and proud of the instructional leadership provided by Ms. Rivero and the implementation of Achieve3000's instructional strategy by the West Broward Reading Teachers. Not only did West Broward show gains for the lowest 25 percent of readers, 96 percent of our seniors who were enrolled in a Reading course met their graduation requirement for reading. Achieve3000 was an integral part of the remediation process of West Broward's blended learning model."

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– Elizabeth Rivero, Literacy Coach

For more information please contact:

At Achieve3000, we believe literacy is the key to unlocking student success. Since 2001, we have partnered with schools and districts to accelerate literacy growth for all students with our flagship PRO platform for differentiated literacy instruction. We also offer Smarty Ants for personalized foundational literacy and Actively Learn for secondary curriculum depth. Together, our solutions help all preschool through adult learners reach their full potential.


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