

# “The Intersection of Progress and Practice: Actualizing the Science of Reading with Moonshot Moment”

December 10, 2024

@readingby3rd #GLReading #LearningTuesdays



CRUCIBLE  
OF PRACTICE

*Reflections on Lessons Learned*

The Campaign for  
GRADE-LEVEL  
READING



“You do not rise to the level of your goals.  
You fall to the level of your systems.”

- James Clear, Author, *Atomic Habits*

# What is the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading?

## What

The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading seeks to **disrupt generational poverty** and **ensure more hopeful futures for children of low-income families**.

## How

We support **community-driven initiatives** to improve the likelihood that these children will grasp the first rung of the success sequence ladder — graduation from high school.

## Where

More than 370 communities in the US and 2 provinces in Canada

4,100+ local orgs

500+ state and local funders

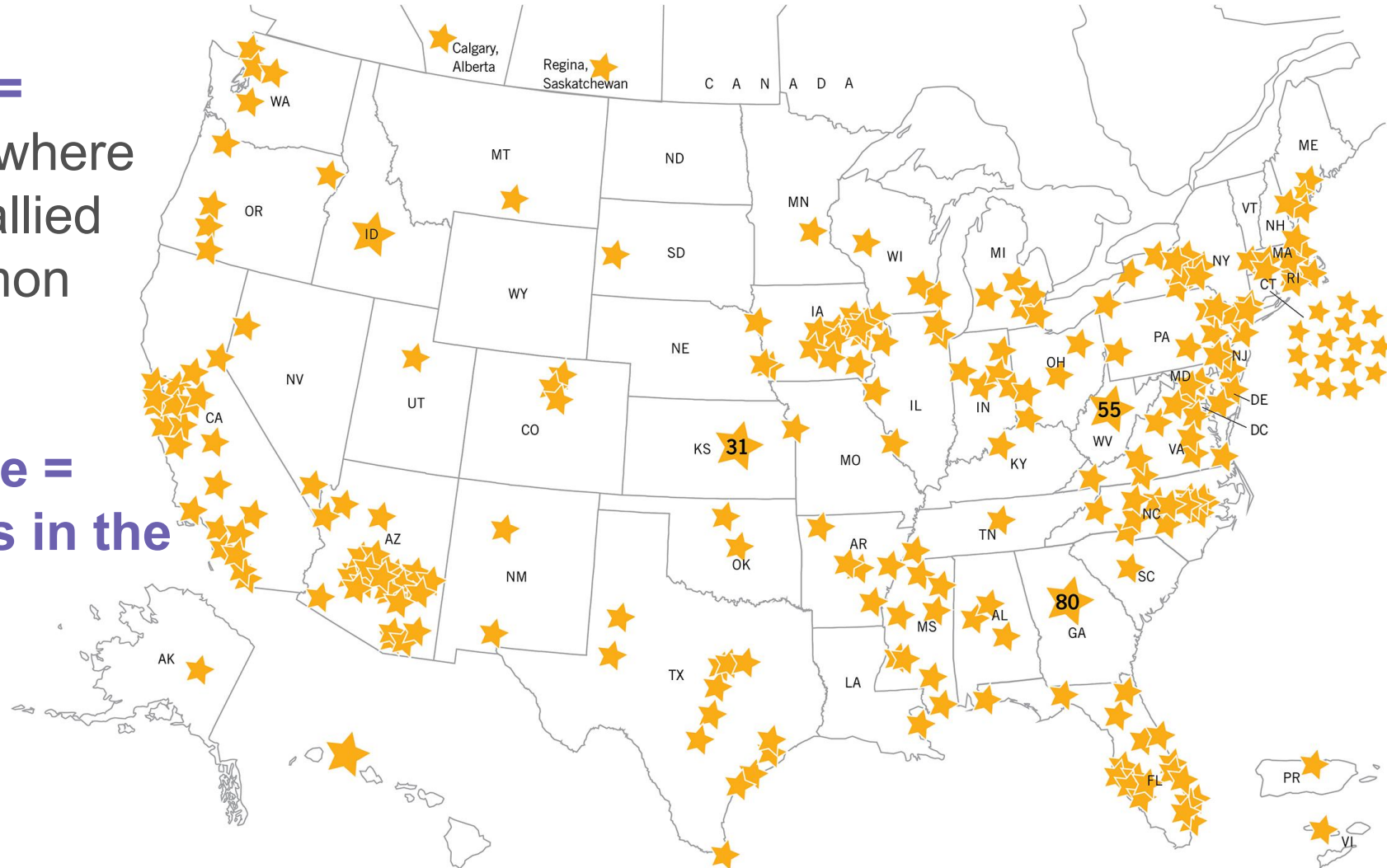
200+ United Ways



# Our Network: More than one star

## Local GLR Community =

- A geographic location where local community has rallied around a shared common agenda
- Total sum of influence = thousands of humans in the broader system





## Today's Moderators



Barbara Hammond  
CEO and Co-Founder  
The Learning Alliance

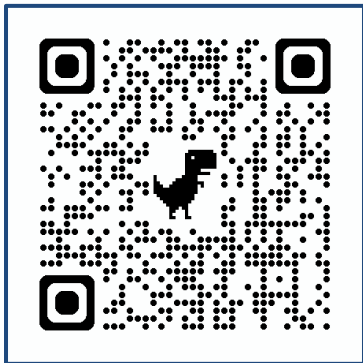


Liz Woody-Remington  
Chief Academic Officer and  
Co-Founder  
The Learning Alliance

Website: <https://www.thelearningalliance.org/>

# Policy. Practice. Performance.

Creating a  
Literacy Capital  
of the Nation



Through Public  
Private  
Partnership and  
Systems  
Integration

Join our learning journey.



# The “Two Moms and a Philanthropist” Story

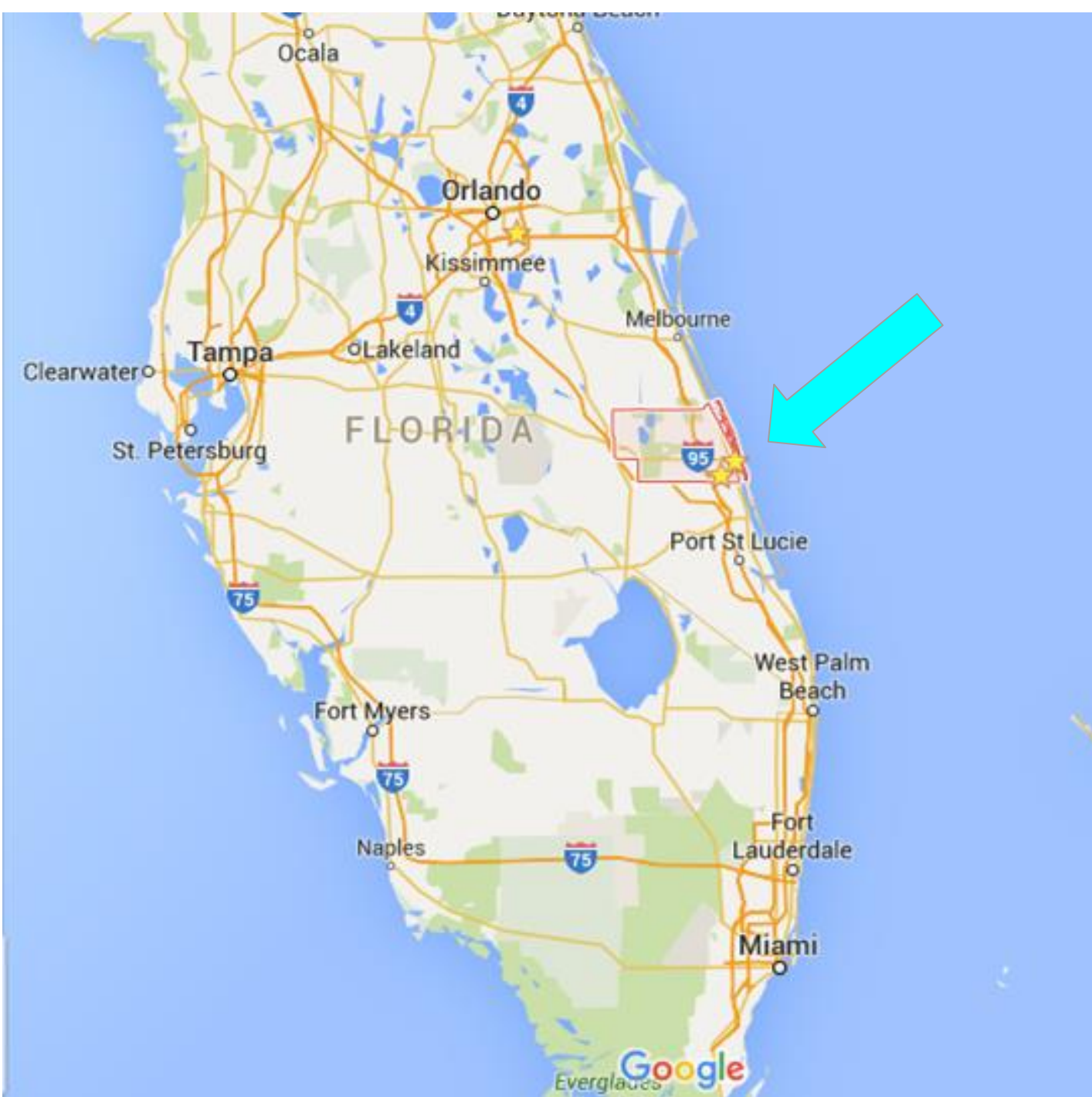


PBS Sign In Home Shows Video TV Schedules Shop Donate LIVE TV SOUTH FLORIDA WFLA PBS

**PBS NEWSHOUR**  
**How one student’s dyslexia changed a community**  
Clip: 09/03/2014 | 7m 54s  
[+ My List](#)

When Liz Woody’s son Mason was in third grade, he struggled to read basic words. After Woody moved Mason to a specialized school, she set out to transform techniques to reach struggling readers. John Tulenko of Learning Matters has the story.





# Vero Beach, FL

## Indian River County

- 69% Economically Disadvantaged (3rd grade)
- 51% Minority Students
- 70% of 13 Elementary Schools are Title 1
- ESE: 18%
- 17,000 students (average)





# Our Name and Logo Say It All





# Moonshot Moment Framing Question

What does it take to achieve 90% literacy by third grade  
such that we grow literate, compassionate, creative  
citizens who will improve the world?



# The Learning Alliance Blueprint

## MOONSHOT PROGRAMS

In-School Coaching  
& Professional  
Learning

Afterschool  
& Summer  
Tutoring

Community  
Engagement

Family  
Partnership

Fueled by The Learning Alliance

- \*25 Positions
- \*13 Schools
- \*5000 Students

- \*180 Leaders
- \*Over 60 organizations
- \*39 Elected Officials

- \*850 Students
- \*90 Teachers
- \*13 Schools

- \*700+ Families

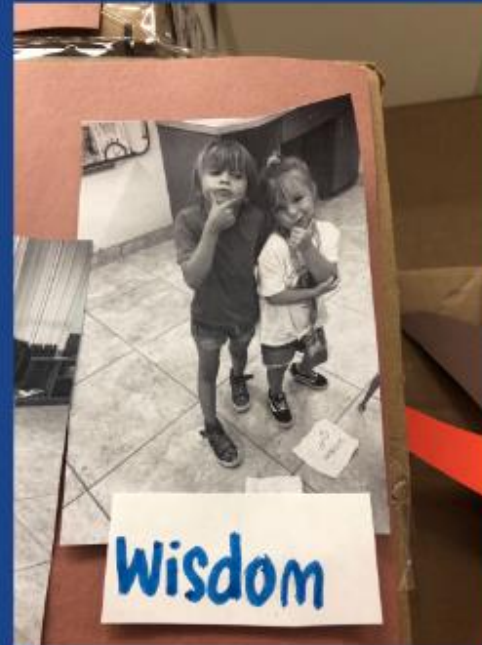
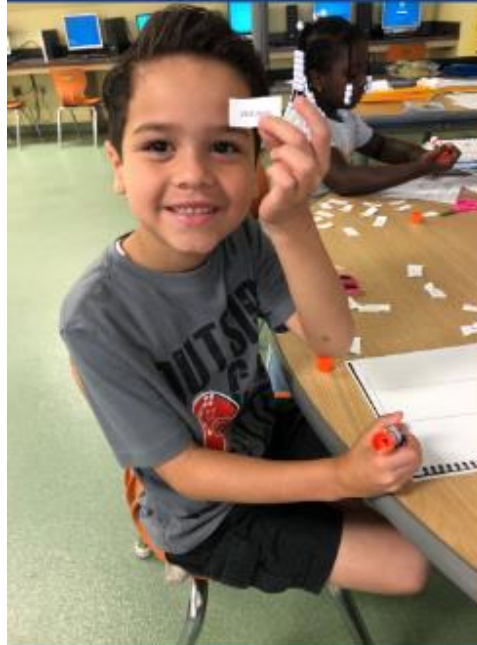


# Afterschool and Summer Tutoring

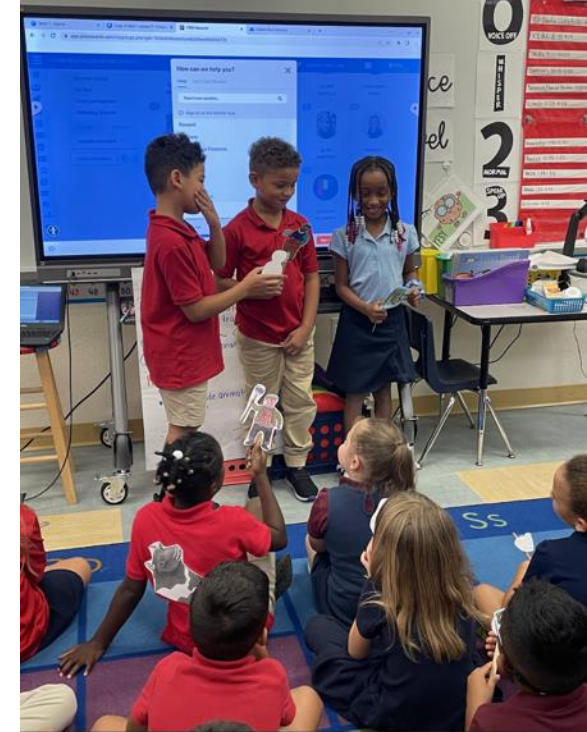
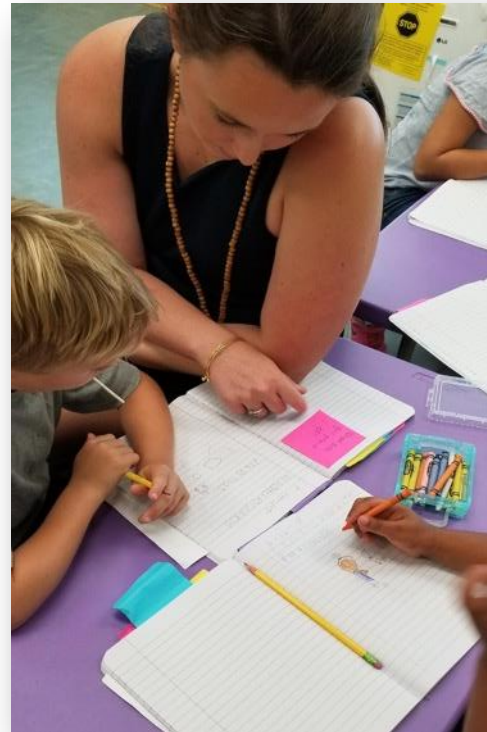
Moonshot Academy



Child-focused Programs that Work



# In-School Coaching and Professional Learning

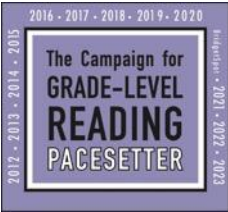


# Family Partnerships

Moonshot Families - Read, Talk, Play, Sing, Create



# Community Engagement



# Collective Impact - From Silos to Integrated Action





# Today's Panel



Leslie Connelly

Coordinator of Moonshot Professional Development: Acceleration & Coaching  
School District of Indian River County



David K. Moore, Ed.D.

Superintendent  
School District of Indian River County, FL



Tiffany Hogan, Ph.D.

Director, Speech and Language (SAiL)  
Literacy Lab  
MGH Institute of Health Professions



Danielle "Nell" Thompson, Ph.D.

Founder and President  
The Transformative Reading Teacher Group, The Big Sky Literacy Summit,  
The Reading League Montana

**Q. Please share what motivates you to do this work.**



Tiffany P. Hogan, PhD, CCC-SLP

MGH Institute of Health Professions, Boston, MA, USA

Harvard Medical School

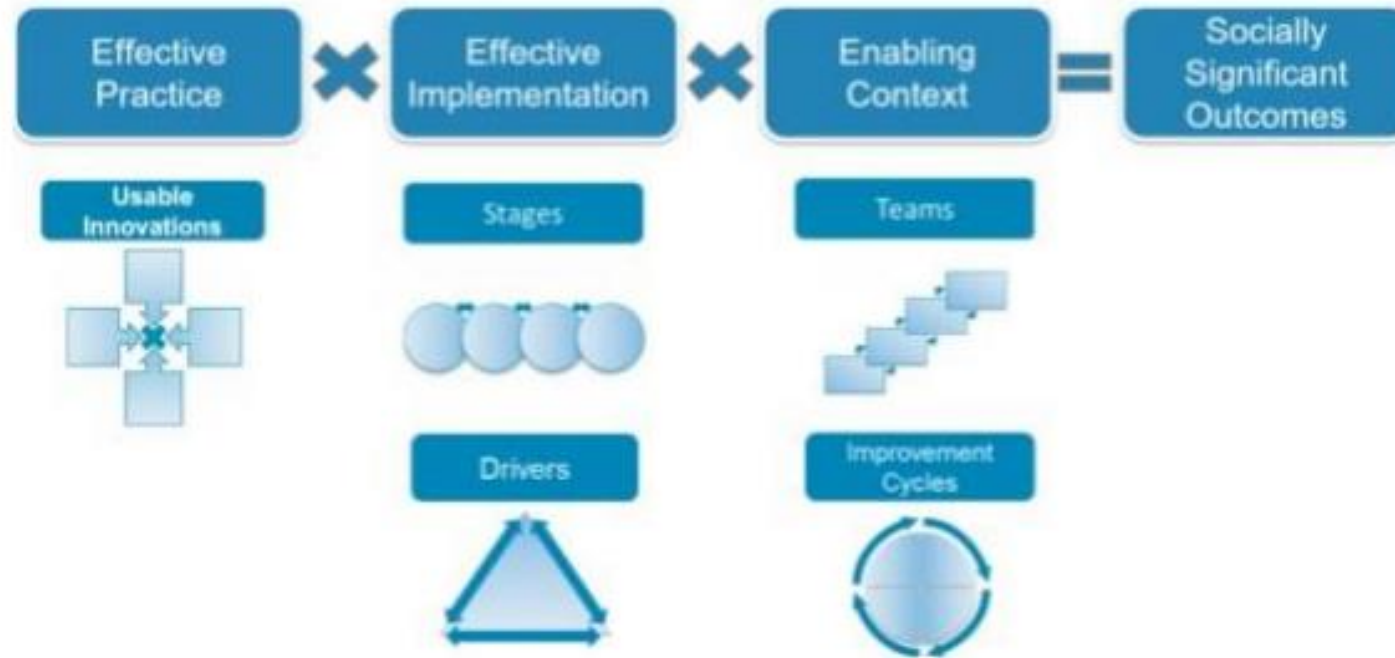
[thogan@mghihp.edu](mailto:thogan@mghihp.edu)

 @tiffanyphogan

 @seehearspeakpodcast

 @sailliteracylab

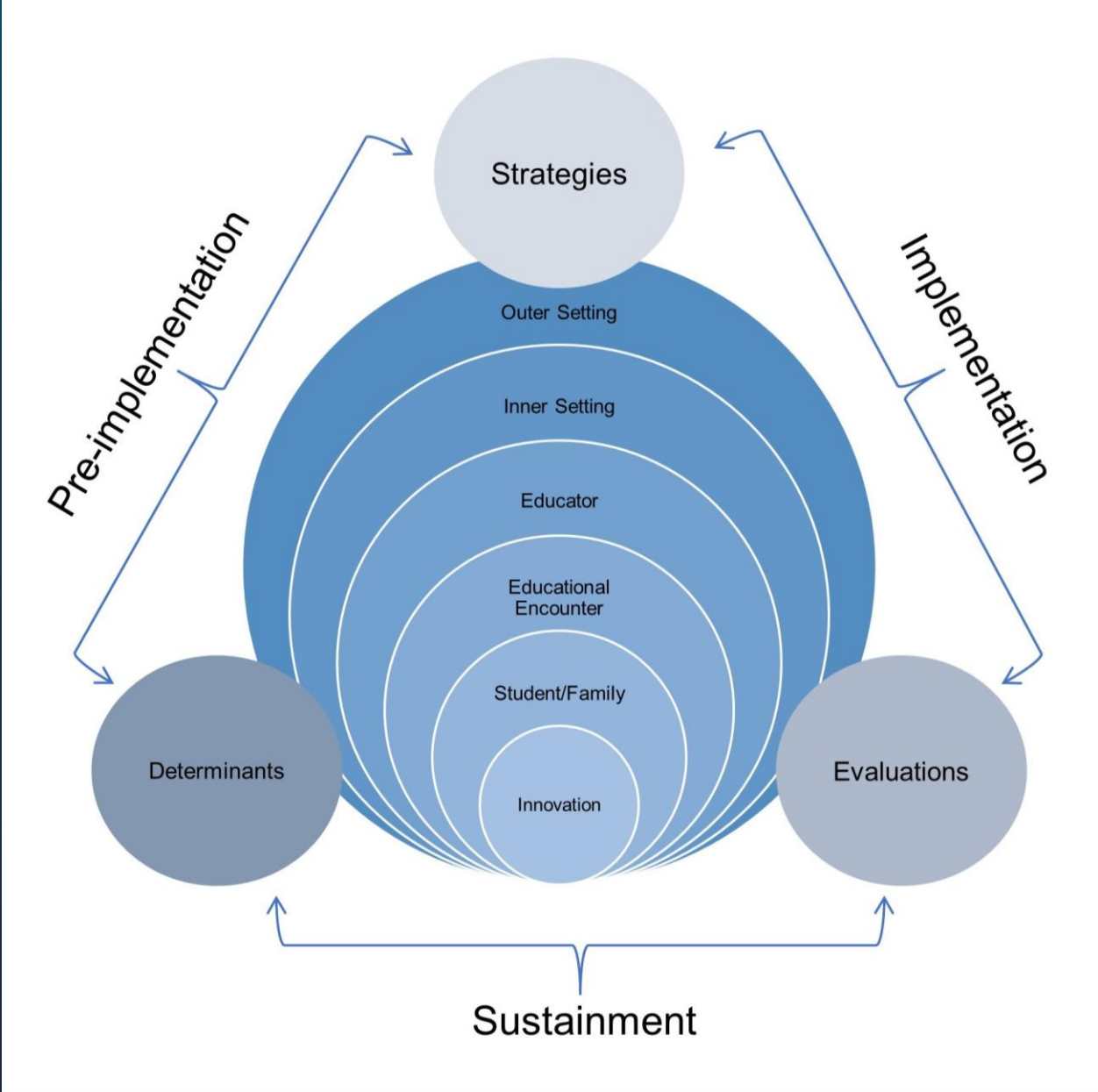
# An Overview of the Active Implementation Frameworks



<https://implementation.fpg.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/Active-Implementation-Overview.pdf>

Children are contained in  
communities & systems  
that affect their learning

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The Most Improved School District in the State of Florida



# SDIRC SYSTEMS OVERVIEW

Dr. David K. Moore  
Superintendent  
School District of Indian River County



# OUR AIM



OUTPACE



OUTPERFORM



PRESERVE



Establish the School District of Indian River County as “**The First Choice**” for education in Indian River County.

# HOW WE REALIZE OUR VISION



**Habits:** Consistently and repetitively implement **high-yield action steps** to enhance instructional quality.

**Systems:** Wire the system to **learn fast** to establish and implement robust, proven, sustainable approaches to continuous improvement.

**Goals:** Demonstrate a resolute commitment to achieving ambitious targets by carrying out the established **habits and systems with fidelity.**



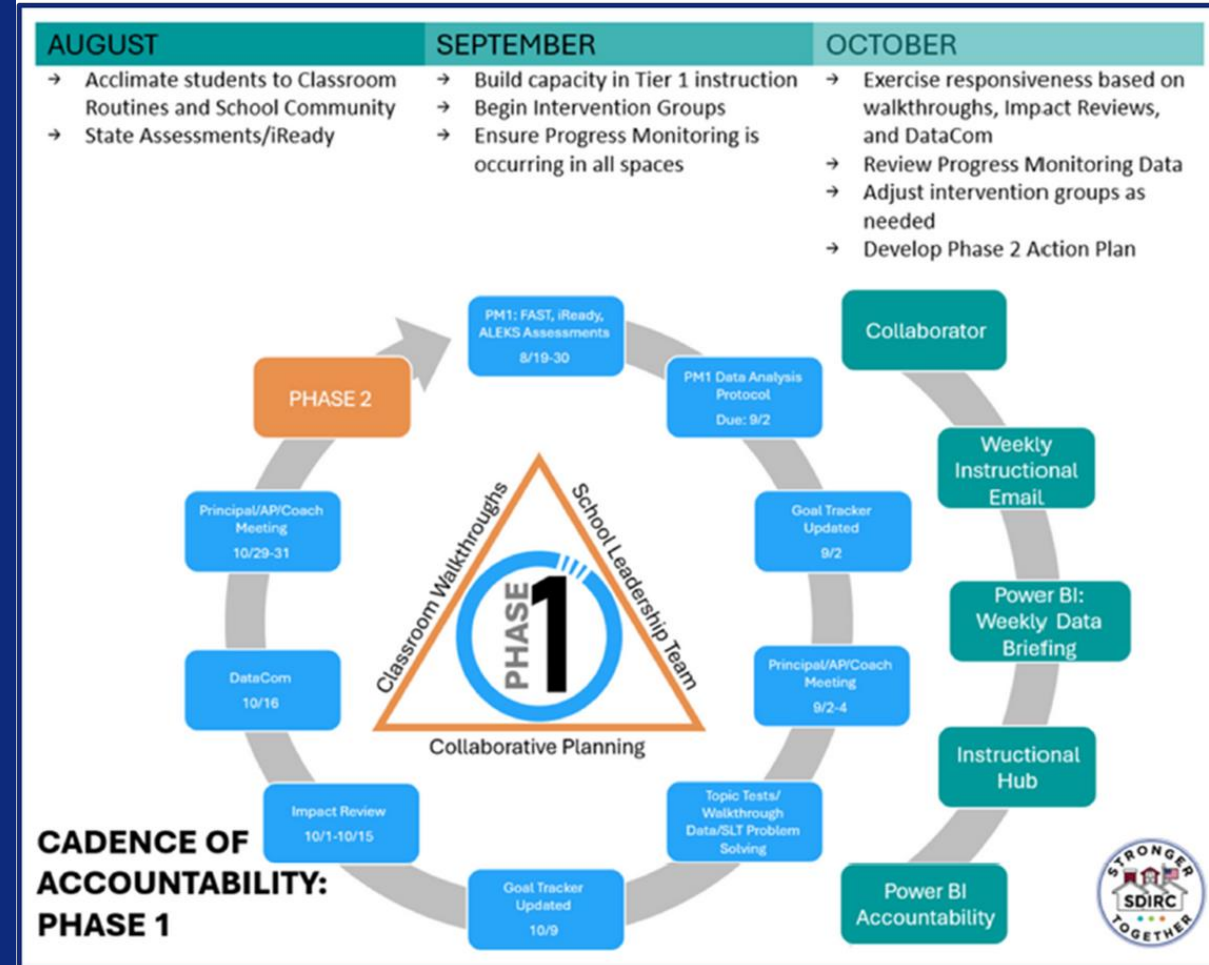
# WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE...

Evidence of:

- Systematic Observation of Instructional Practices
- Data-Driven Action Planning to Improve Instructional Quality
- Job-Embedded Professional Learning

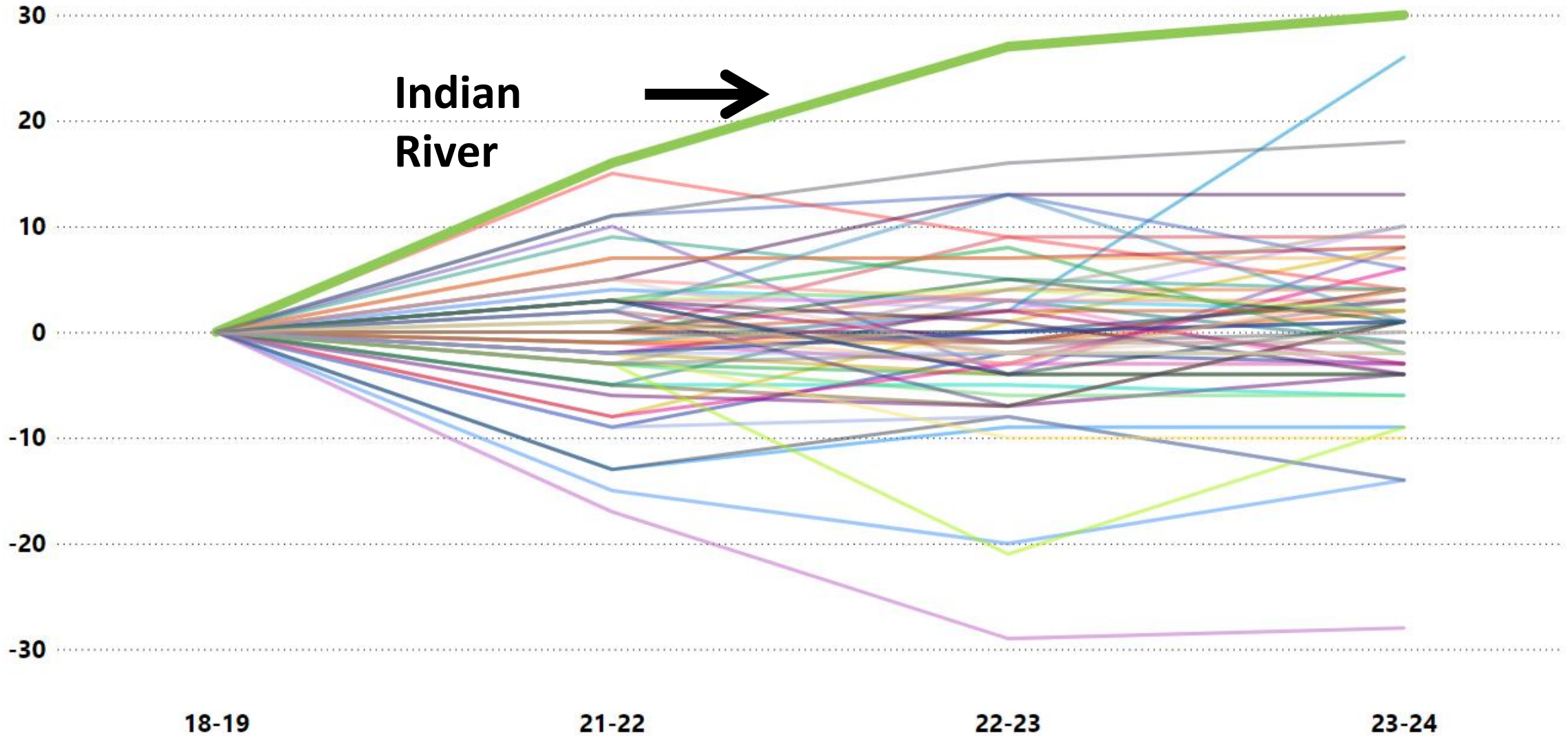
Grounded in...

A Clearly Established Cadence of Accountability



# Growth in District Grade 18-19 to 23-24

Cumulative Rank Growth from 18-19 Amongst 67 Florida School Districts





**Danielle 'Nell' Thompson, PhD CCC-SLP**  
Founder and President of The Transformative Reading Teacher Group  
The Big Sky Literacy Summit  
and the volunteer president of The Reading League – Montana

[DrNell@TheTransformativeReadingTeacher.com](mailto:DrNell@TheTransformativeReadingTeacher.com)



# The Sciences that help us deliver on the promise of all students reading at grade level

## Neuroscience of Leadership

People development  
Personal growth  
Organizational Psychology  
Change Management

## Implementation Science

Letting it happen vs. Making it happen  
De-implementation  
Accountability  
Strategic Coaching  
National Implementation Research Network

## Science of Teaching

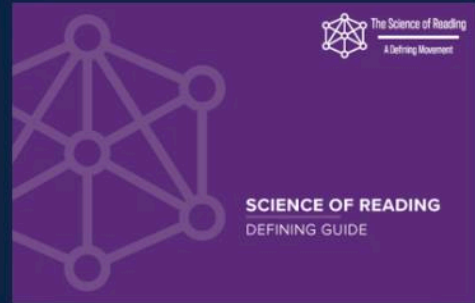
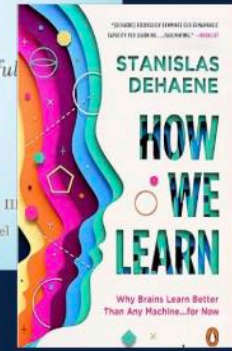
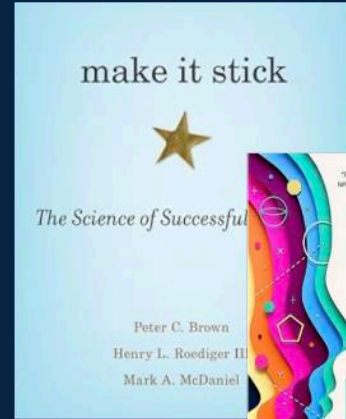
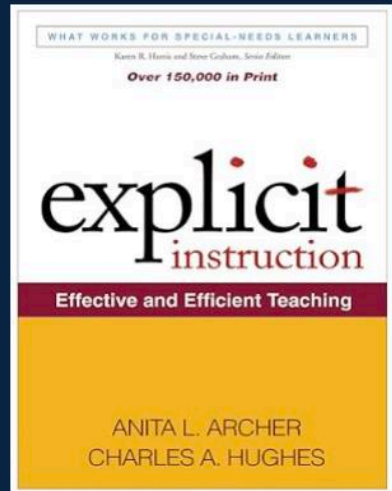
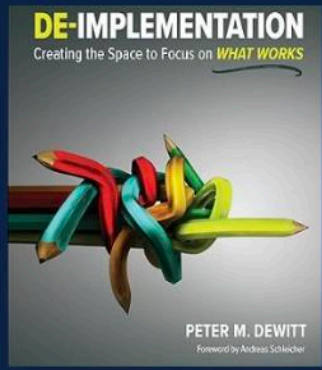
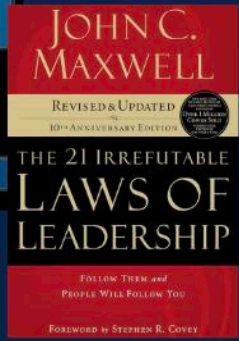
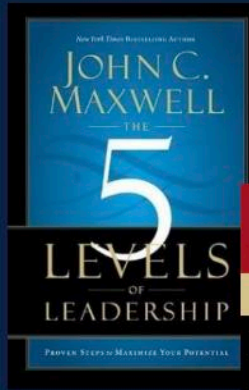
Direct, systematic, explicit, systematic  
Instructional routines  
Teacher knowledge  
Differentiation

## Science of Learning

Attention  
Active Engagement  
Error Correction  
Consolidation  
Impacts of sleep

## Science of Reading

The Science of Reading is a vast, interdisciplinary body of scientific research about reading and issues related to reading and writing



# Skilled Reading Continuum and NAEP 2022



Well Below Average Readers Below Basic / Not Proficient 29% FL	Below Average Readers Basic / Not Proficient 32% FL	Average Readers Proficient 30% FL	Proficient and Advanced Readers 9% FL
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10 – 15 %  
(Dyslexia falls here)  
Learning to read requires code-based explicit, systematic sequential diagnostic prescriptive instruction with many opportunities for rehearsal to reach mastery.

40-50%  
Learning to read proficiently requires code-based explicit, systematic and sequential instruction.

35%  
Learning to read is relatively easy with broad instruction addressing the domains of reading.

5% - Learning to read seems effortless.

Created by Dr. Danielle 'Nell' Thompson after research by Hempenstall, 2016; NRP, 2000; Kilpatrick, 2015; NAEP 2022



# Florida's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade (NAEP, 2022)

*Students needing attention and intention*

## SCORE GAPS FOR STUDENT GROUPS

- In 2022, Black students had an average score that was 28 points lower than that for White students. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 1998 (31 points).
- In 2022, Hispanic students had an average score that was 12 points lower than that for White students. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 1998 (20 points).

Gaps exist

## RESULTS FOR STUDENT GROUPS IN 2022

REPORTING GROUPS	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS	AVG. SCORE	PERCENTAGE AT OR ABOVE NAEP		PERCENTAGE AT NAEP ADVANCED
			BASIC	PROFICIENT	
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>					
White	36	234	81	51	13
Black	22	207	52	20	3
Hispanic	34	222	69	34	7
Asian	4	255	94	75	34
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	#	‡	‡	‡	‡
Two or More Races	4	232	79	46	10
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	51	221	67	36	8
Female	49	228	74	42	11
<b>National School Lunch Program</b>					
Eligible	58	215	61	28	5
Not eligible	41	238	84	54	16

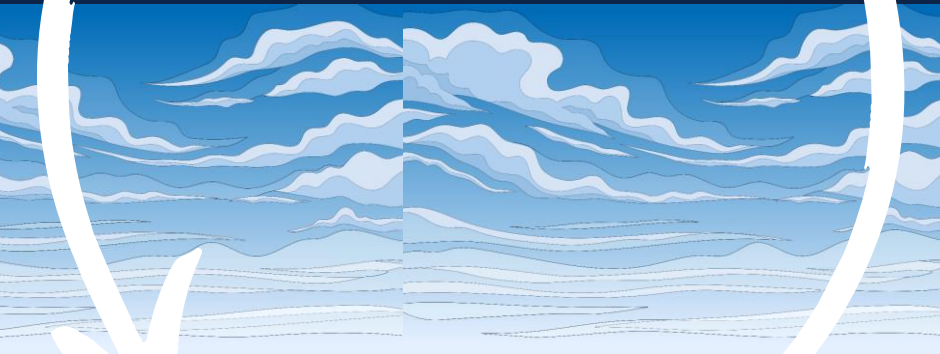


# Levels of Change and Innovation

Ensuring we maximize the potential within a system



The Air Game



The Ground Game

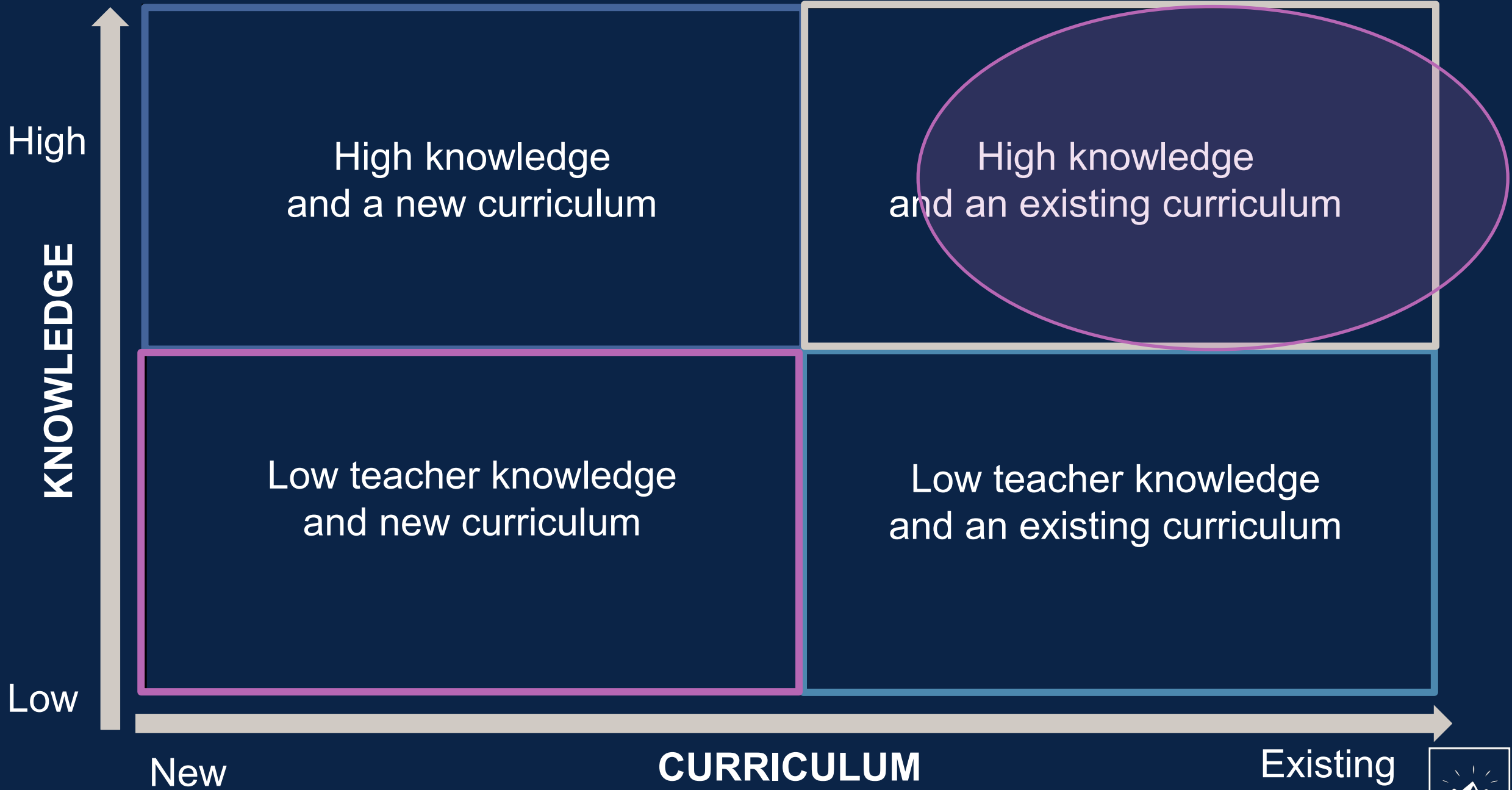


**District Leaders** - Change is observable in larger increments. There's urgency in the moment regarding systems, protocols within, and school/community feedback. There must be patience and discipline in charting and navigating the course towards the vision.

**School Leaders** - Change is observable in increasingly larger increments. There's urgency in the moment to teachers, students, systems, and the community. There must be patience and discipline in continuously communicating the vision, expectations, and results.

**Teachers** - Change has to be quick. There must be urgency in the moment with every student. There must be patience with long-term results while being responsive to immediate student needs and the classroom ecosystem.







The Air Game  
District and School Leaders



*Trust*

*Credibility*

*Positive and sustained  
examples of excellence*



The Ground Game  
Teachers

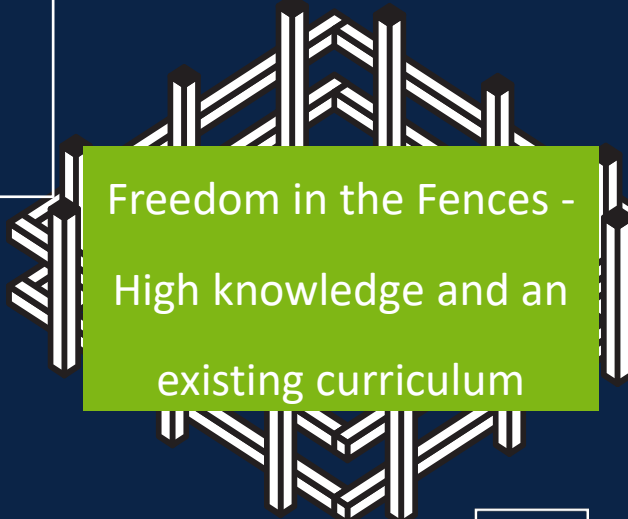
Freedom in the Fences  
High knowledge and an existing  
curriculum allow for innovation.



# What does freedom in the fences look like?

*Two leadership levers for change...*

- 1) Differentiation in Core / Tier 1 Foundational Skills Instruction defined by diagnostic prescriptive data and a student's response to direct, explicit, systematic instruction. (This differs from all students getting core at grade level).
- 2) Innovations that meet the needs of the students the minute they enter school, or before, such as early oral language screening and instruction.



Freedom in the Fences -  
High knowledge and an  
existing curriculum

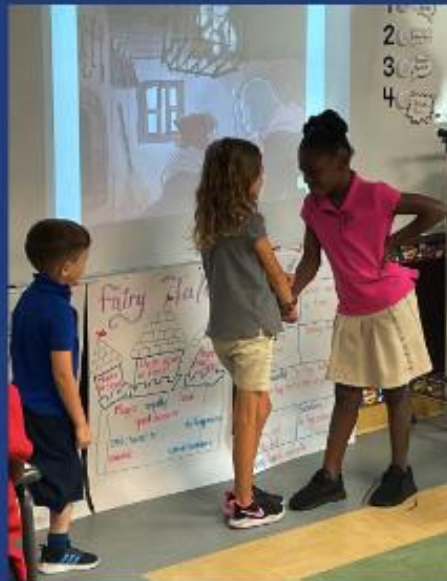


Ultimately, we want to lead and support systems and teachers in getting **first instruction right**. To do this, we need an assessment system and a curriculum and instruction system that inform diagnostic prescriptive instruction that starts in Tier 1 for Foundational Skills.



# Moonshot School

The Moonshot School



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A Hub for Excellence in Teaching & Professional Learning for Literacy



## A MOONSHOT SCHOOL: Background

Ms. Leslie Connelly  
Coordinator of Moonshot Professional Learning  
School District of Indian River County

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# The Why...



2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, VBE

Vero Beach Elementary School



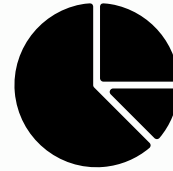


# A SCHOOL SNAPSHOT

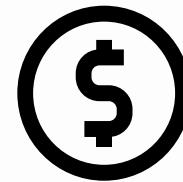
Vero Beach Elementary School



**Total Student Population**  
(PK-5) = 586 students



**Student Race/Ethnicity=**  
White - 32%; Black - 26%;  
Hispanic - 31%; Other - 8%;  
Asian/Pacific Islander - 4%



**Economically**  
**Disadvantaged= 81%**



**Students with**  
**Disabilities = 25%**



**English Language**  
**Learners = 8%**

A Moonshot School



# What Makes Us Unique? We Build a Learning Culture

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Lisa Ross  
Literacy Specialist



Sarah Leopold  
Literacy Specialist



Sharon Keeley  
Literacy Specialist



Acceleration Team

Vero Beach Elementary School



A Moonshot School



# What Makes Us Unique? We Build a Learning Culture

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Debra Arseneaux  
Arts Integration Specialist



Diana O'Connor  
Family Success Coach



Moonshot the Puppet



Acceleration Team

Vero Beach Elementary School

A Moonshot School



# Creating a Culture of Collective Efficacy on the Science of Learning and Reading



Work with National Experts



Week-long Moonshot Institute

# Creating a Culture of Collective Efficacy on the Science of Learning and Reading



Ongoing Professional Learning  
With Moonshot Mondays



Microcredentials



Proficiency Badges



Modeling and Coaching to Improve Practice



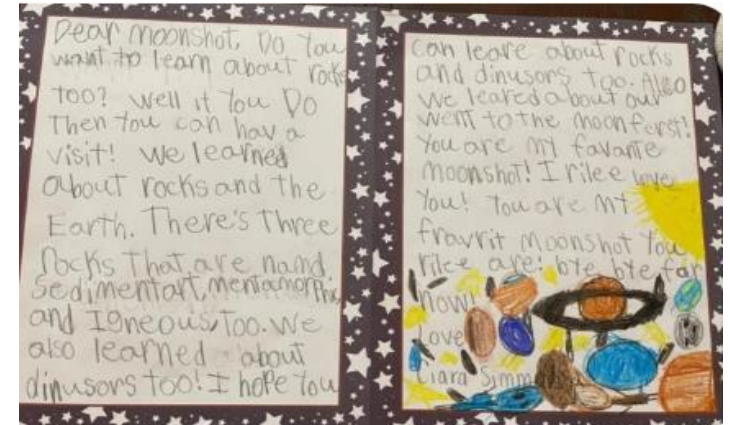
Demonstration Classroom



Extended Collaborative Planning

Creating a Culture of Collective Efficacy Through the Science of Learning and Reading

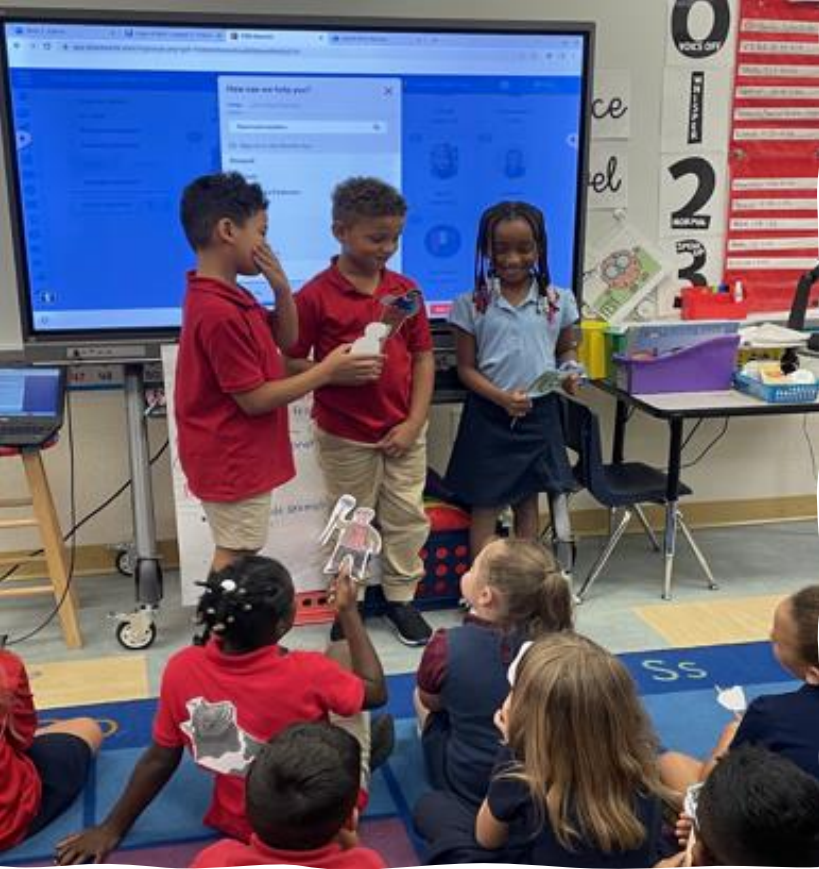
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# Creating a Culture of Collective Efficacy Through Arts Integration

1st grade students mastering the systems within the human body.

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## Creating a Culture of Collective Efficacy Through Arts Integration

- First grade students used masks, puppets and props to review the main events, identify characters, and recall the lesson or moral of stories
- Kindergarten students identified parts of a plant and explained their life cycle





**Creating a Culture of  
Collective Efficacy Through  
Innovations to Afterschool**

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# Creating a Culture of Collective Efficacy Through Extended Community Partnership

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DANCE DRAMA YOGA VISUAL ARTS



BALLET  
VERO BEACH



Vero Beach  
Opera



INDIAN RIVER CLAY





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## Creating a Culture of Collective Efficacy Through Family Partnerships

- Orientation this year had 83% of families attend compared to 43% of families last year
- Over 500 family members attended our Fall Festival
- Creating home libraries through United States of Readers



## The Overall Impact

# English Language Arts Achievement PM1 Year Over Year Comparison

ELA SCHOOL	2023-2024	2024-2025	PM1 Year Over Year
	PM1 % 3+	PM1 % 3+	
BES	36%	44%	8%
CES	24%	29%	5%
DES	10%	10%	0%
FES	15%	21%	6%
GES	19%	22%	3%
IRA	17%	23%	6%
LMS	42%	49%	7%
OMS	44%	45%	1%
PIES	17%	22%	5%
RMS	45%	40%	-5%
SES	20%	24%	4%
TCES	27%	31%	4%
<b>VBES</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>9%</b>
ELEMENTARY	27%	31%	4%



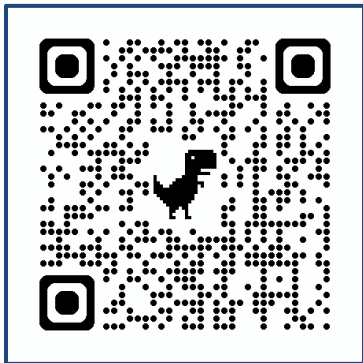
+9 is the Highest Increase in Year Over Year Comparison in the District!

# The Why...



# Policy. Practice. Performance.

Creating a  
Literacy Capital  
of the Nation



Through Public  
Private  
Partnership and  
Systems  
Integration

Join our learning journey.



## Upcoming GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinars:

### LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY CHALLENGE

“Pathways to Progress: Inspiring Success Stories in Student Learning Recovery”

Tuesday, December 10, 3:00 - 4:30 pm ET/12:00 - 1:30 pm PT

### PARTNER WEBINAR

“Child Care Has Shifted: Are We Ready for the Future?”

Tuesday, December 17, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. ET/12:00 - 1:30 p.m. PT

### HOLIDAY REBROADCAST

“Supporting School Attendance in a Time of Changing Norms”

Tuesday, December 24, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. ET/12:00 - 1:30 p.m. PT

### HOLIDAY REBROADCAST

“Not Just Nice But Necessary: Family Engagement = A Big Bet

That’s Paying Off For Kids”

Tuesday, December 31, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. ET/12:00 - 1:30 p.m. PT

