IMPLEMENTATION PILOT STUDY: IN TANDEM

During the 2022–2023 school year, Mackenzie Gallace, a kindergarten teacher in a large school district in Pinellas County, Florida, piloted the In Tandem literacy program during its development stage. The In Tandem lessons were given to 20 kindergarten students three or more times per week.

RESULTS

Every student in the classroom made significant gains on all school-based literacy assessments.

The results were consistent across all groups including English Language Learners, non-white (Hispanic) students, Tier 2 students, and Tier 3 students. The students were assessed four times over the course of the school year, with a significant number of students reaching the end-of-year grade-level standards by midyear on several of the measures. The teacher reported significant student gains in literacy skills but also reported gains in their confidence and enthusiasm for reading and writing. Between the fall of 2022 and spring of 2023, students' test scores increased significantly.

The school principal was also impressed with the results. After evaluating the data and observing the classroom, the school has decided to implement In Tandem in all K–2 classrooms during the 2023–2024 school year.

Ms. Gallace reports, "In Tandem was a game changer for me. I was searching for high-quality decodable books for my students, and I kept coming up short. All the books I found lacked quality storylines and never felt natural to read. I was already using Literacy Footprints in my classroom, so when I was given the opportunity to pilot In Tandem, I jumped on it. I was evolving as a reading teacher, keeping up with the latest research with the Science of Reading, and I was so happy to see that In Tandem aligned to all of this perfectly! With the word chains that switched from encoding to decoding, my students started to thrive! They were learning to map words, not just memorize them! They were actually applying these skills to their writing too! My students took to the routine effortlessly, they begged to be at the reading table each day, they loved the new decodable books, and things just started to click. My students did
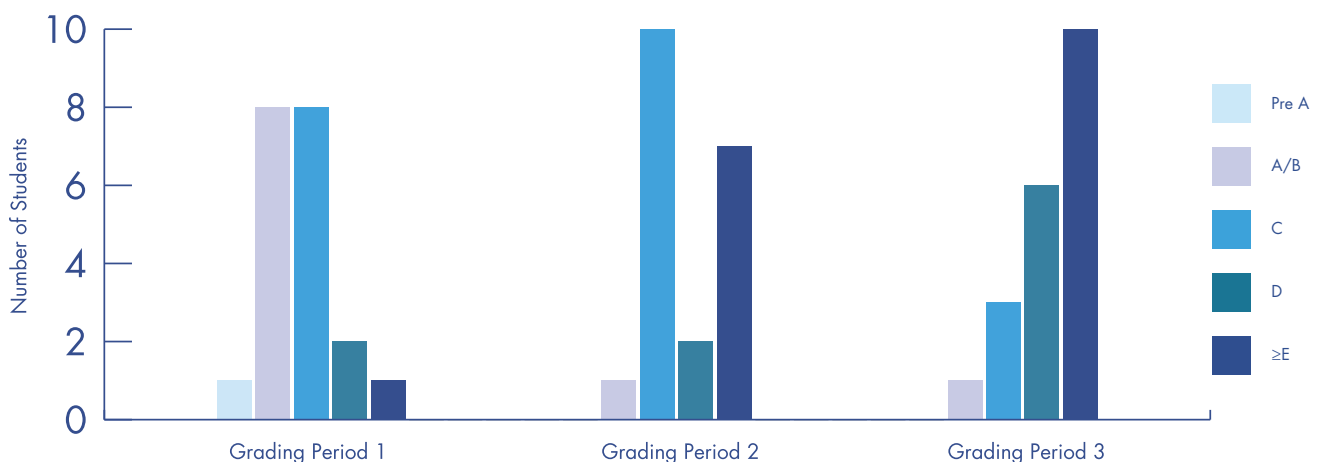
In Tandem

amazingly and grew so much! I loved the time-saving lesson plans. I trusted the lessons and was seeing such great results that my school purchased In Tandem for kindergarten and first grade for the following school year. I am currently training my peers to use In Tandem in their own classrooms!"

READING RESULTS
School District 2022–2023 Kindergarten Reading Level Criteria

- Limited Progress toward Standard Mastery: working in Pre-A routine, does not read leveled text as measured by running record.

- Beginning Progress toward Student Mastery: read Level A or B text with comprehension as measured by running record Instructional or Independent (Benchmark Grading Period 2).

- Approaching Standard Mastery: read Level C text with comprehension as measured by running record Instructional or Independent (Benchmark Grading Period 3).

- Meeting Standard: read Level D text with comprehension as measured by running record Instructional or Independent (Benchmark Grading Period 4).

- Exceeding the Standard: read Level E text with comprehension as measured by running record Instructional or Independent.
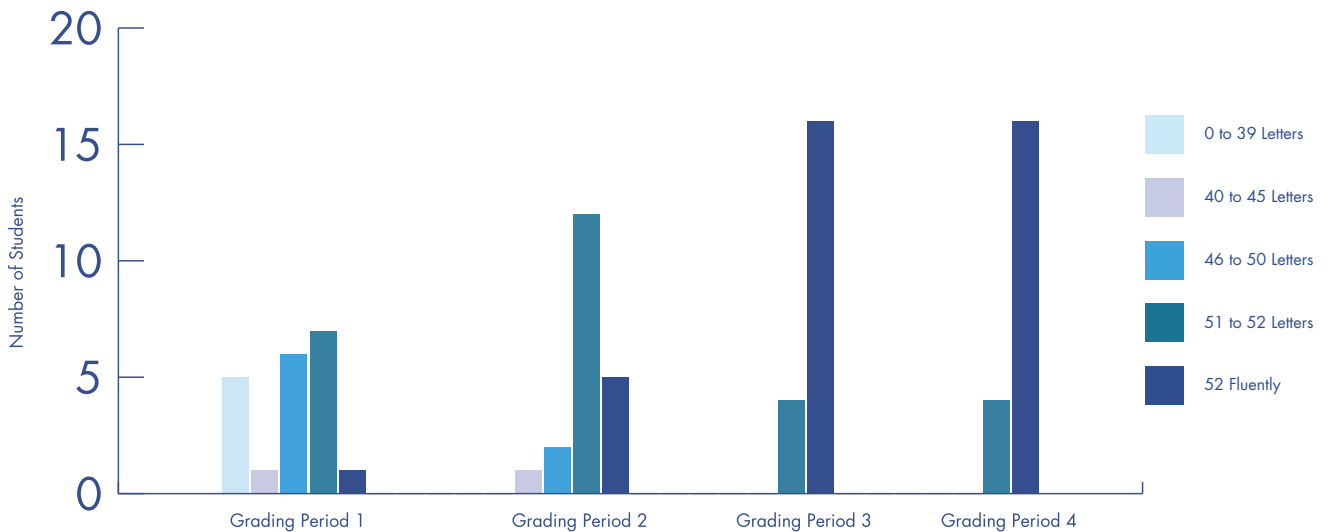
READING LEVEL BY GRADING PERIOD

CASE STUDY: IN TANDEM

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LETTER RECOGNITION RESULTS
School District 2022–2023 Kindergarten Letter Recognition Level Criteria

- Limited Progress toward Standard: identifies 0–39 letters.

- Beginning Progress toward Standard: identifies 40–45 letters (Benchmark Grading Period 1).

- Approaching Standard: identifies 46–50 letters (Benchmark Grading Period 2).

- Meeting Standard: identifies 51–52 letters (Benchmark Grading Periods 3 and 4).

- Exceeding the Standard: identifies 52 letters fluently.
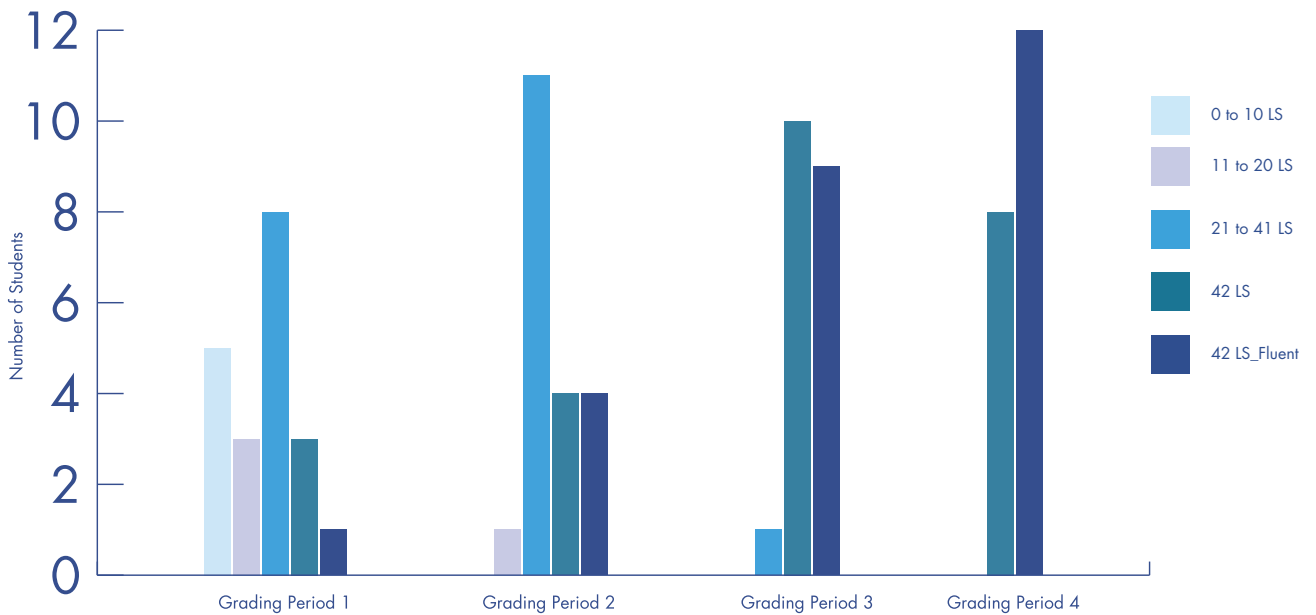
LETTER RECOGNITION BY GRADING PERIOD

Number of Students

Legend:
- 0 to 39 Letters
- 40 to 45 Letters
- 46 to 50 Letters
- 51 to 52 Letters
- 52 Fluently

LETTER SOUND RECOGNITON RESULTS
School District 2022–2023 Kindergarten Letter-Sound Knowledge Level Criteria

- Limited Progress toward Standard: 0–10 letter sounds.

- Beginning Progress toward Standard: 11–20 letter sounds (Benchmark Grading Period 1).

- Approaching Standard: 21–41 letter sounds (Benchmark Grading Period 2).

- Meeting Standard: 42 letter sounds (Benchmark Grading Periods 3 and 4).

- Exceeding the Standard: 42 fluently.
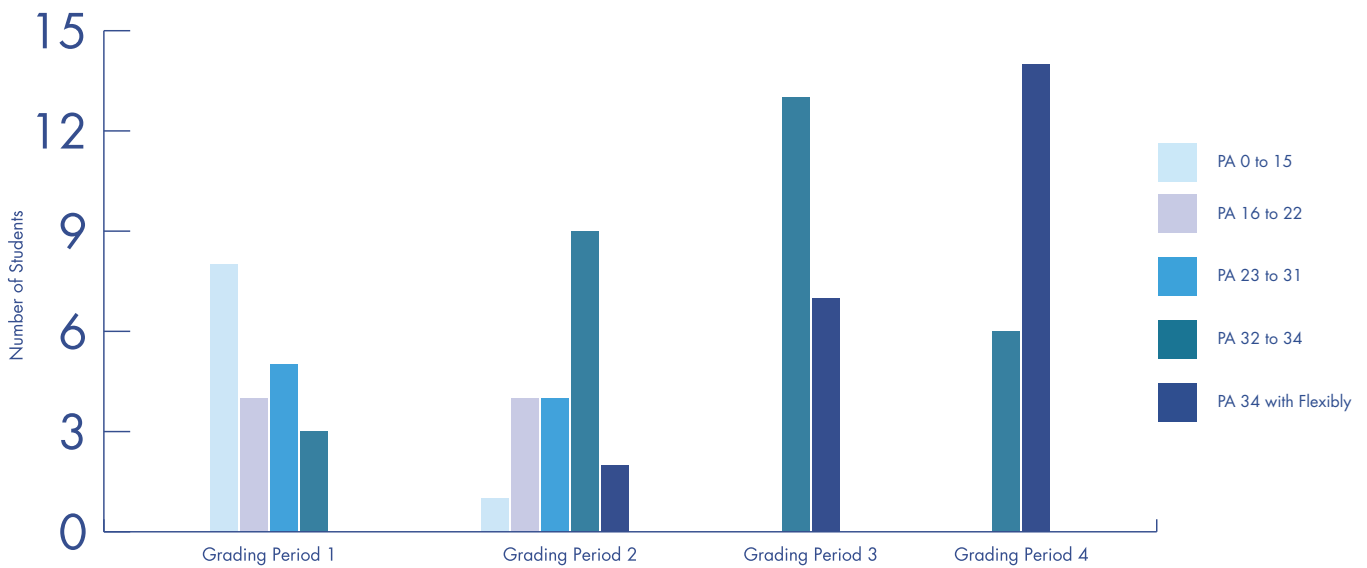
LETTER SOUND RECOGNITION (LS) BY GRADING PERIOD

Legend:
- 0 to 10 LS
- 11 to 20 LS
- 21 to 41 LS
- 42 LS
- 42 LS_Fluent

PHONOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE RESULTS
School District 2022–2023 Kindergarten Phonological Knowledge Criteria

- Limited Progress toward Standard: score of 0–15 on PA.

- Beginning Progress toward Standard: score of 16–22 on PA (Benchmark Grading Period 1).

- Approaching Standard: score of 23–31 on PA (Benchmark Grading Period 2).

- Meeting Standard: score of 32–34 on PA (Benchmark Grading Periods 3 and 4).

- Exceeding the Standard: score of 34+ and uses phonological awareness skillfully and flexibly during literacy activities (e.g., recognizes rhyming words in books, compares number of syllables across words).

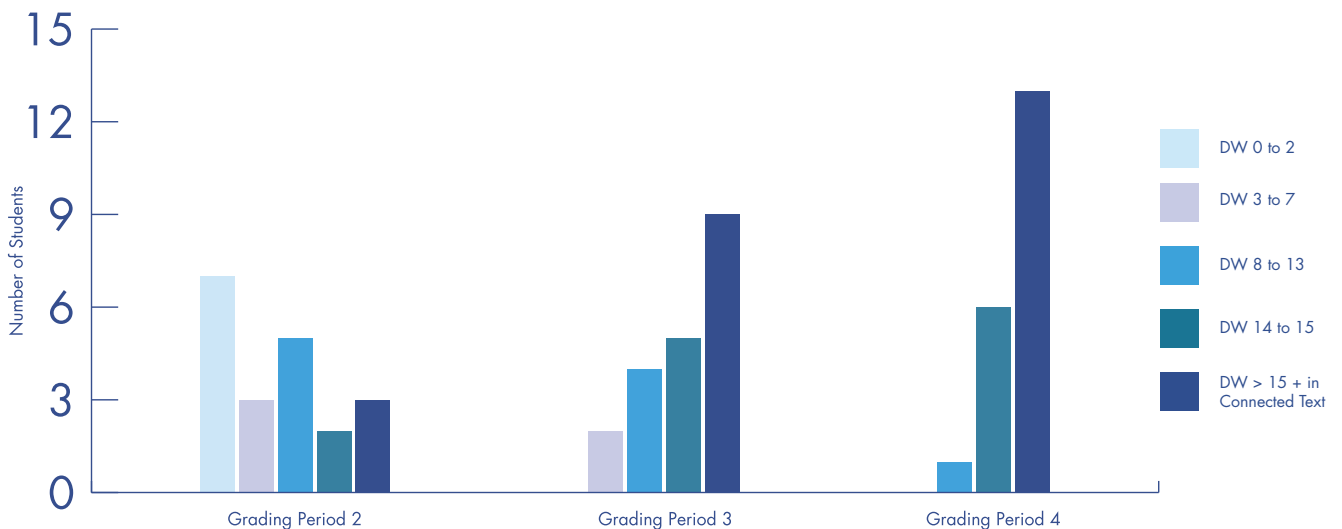PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS SKILL (PA) BY GRADING PERIOD

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DECODING WORDS RESULTS
School District 2022–2023 Kindergarten Decoding Ability Criteria

- Limited Progress toward Standard: score of 0–2 on decoding words.

- Beginning Progress toward Standard: score of 3–7 on decoding words (Benchmark Grading Period).

- Approaching Standard: score of 8–13 on decoding words (Benchmark Grading Period 3).

- Meeting Standard: score of 14–15 on decoding words (Benchmark Grading Period 4).

- Exceeding the Standard: score of 15+ and decodes words in connected text.

DECODING WORDS BY GRADING PERIOD

Number of Students

Grading Period 2   Grading Period 3   Grading Period 4

Legend:
- DW 0 to 2
- DW 3 to 7
- DW 8 to 13
- DW 14 to 15
- DW > 15 + in Connected Text

CASE STUDY: IN TANDEM

SIGHT WORD RECOGNITON RESULTS

■ Limited Progress toward Standard: score of 0–5 on sight words.

■ Beginning Progress toward Standard: score of 6–14 on sight words (Benchmark Grading Period 2).

■ Approaching Standard: score of 15–36 on sight words (Benchmark Grading Period 3).

■ Meeting Standard: score of 37–42 on sight words (Benchmark Grading Period 4).

■ Exceeding the Standard: score of 43+ and recognizes words fluently in connected text.

SIGHT WORD RECOGNITION (SWR) BY GRADING PERIOD

Legend:
- SWR 0 to 5
- SWR 6 to 14
- SWR 15 to 36
- SWR 37 to 42
- SWR 43 + in Connected Text

Y-axis: Number of Students (0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15)

Grading Period 2: SWR 0 to 5 = 4, SWR 6 to 14 = 6, SWR 15 to 36 = 7, SWR 37 to 42 = 2, SWR 43+ = 1

Grading Period 3: SWR 6 to 14 = 2, SWR 15 to 36 = 13, SWR 43+ = 5

Grading Period 4: SWR 0 to 5 = 1, SWR 15 to 36 = 6, SWR 37 to 42 = 3, SWR 43+ = 10