

# Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

11:45 p.m.

Northeastern Catholic District School Board

## MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Karla Gagnon, Autism Ontario / Chair  
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee / Vice Chair  
Ellen Renaud, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services  
Deborah Chornobey, YMCA  
Stan Skalecki, NCDSB Trustee  
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education  
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher  
Katie Mundle, Special Assignment Teacher  
Lisa Lamarche, Behavior & Autism Specialist  
Kim McEntee, Mental Health Supervisor  
Amber Smith-Come, Principal St. Anne School  
Sean Robertson, Principal St. Joseph School  
Matt Cull, Principal Sacred Heart Catholic School  
Jean Ethier, Education Services Officer / Recorder

**EXCUSED:** Sabrina Gravel, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre  
Billie Richer, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children  
Joeann Gervais, The Lord's Kitchen  
Ryley Reis, Canadian Mental Health Association

**1. Welcome, Prayer and Land Acknowledgment**

Karla welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer and land acknowledgement.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

MOVED BY: S. Skalecki

BY: C. Landers SECONDED

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: C. Landers

BY: S. Skalecki SECONDED

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

#### **4. Review of Term 1 Lexia Student Data**

Daphne presented to the committee the Lexia results for term one. The program is utilized in classrooms from Kindergarten to Grade 8. When it's taught the right way, literacy is fully within reach of the vast majority of learners - both students and teachers. Across all solutions and services, Lexia's approach is focused on sound methodology, engaging experiences, and continued acknowledgement of the value of each individual learner. By doing so, we're making literacy truly accessible for everyone we support. The digital presentation can be found on pages 7-19 of the minutes.

#### **5. One School's Story: Supporting Students Using Lexia and IXL – Presentation by Matt Cull, Sacred Heart Kirkland Lake**

During the meeting, Matt Cull discussed what he and his staff were doing to actively engage students in the use of their programs; IXL and Lexia.

Matt shared that his EAs were all able to access the Lexia and IXL platforms. From here, they could see daily which students were struggling and needed support. They could then provide timely and purposeful instruction that was directed to a particular student or a small group of students. This was done on a daily basis. This allowed students to progress much quicker, leaving them with a sense of accomplishment. Not only was the school closing gaps at a fantastic rate but the EAs were engaged and felt a sense of ownership and responsibility in the education of the children. It was also noted that student behaviour was decreased, and engagement was increased when students were working with the EAs. Furthermore, there has been a slight but steady increase in the amount of time students are using Lexia and IXL at home.

#### **6. Learning Recovery Plans**

##### **6.1 Tutors in the Classroom**

The Ministry of Education has provided our board with money to offer tutoring to our students from K to grade 8. The postings are being released shortly with the goal of hiring two tutors per elementary school for the months of May and June.

##### **6.2 OFIP Tutoring**

As we have for many years, we will be offering OFIP tutoring to support the preparation of grade 3 & 6 students for EQAO. Each elementary school has been allotted 10-15 hours of tutoring by a qualified teacher. This tutoring is to take place between mid-April and the end of May.

##### **6.3 Summer Learning/Transition Program**

We are in the preliminary planning stages for our summer learning and transition programs. We also have funds through our After School Skills Development Program for students with Autism to support the August program. We have not yet confirmation that we will have CODE funding for our July Summer Learning program. This will be offered in person where there is sufficient enrolment. Our greatest challenge will be to find staff who are willing to work the month of July. The After School Skill Development Program will begin mid-April in six of our schools and being offered for the first time at O'Gorman High School. The program will run for 10 weeks in elementary schools and 9 weeks at O'Gorman High School. The program is designed for students with Autism and is open to all students who may have a similar approach to learning.

#### **7. Enrolment for September 2023**

We currently have 115 students who have registered for Year 1 Kindergarten. A Welcome to Kindergarten program will be running for 6 Saturdays beginning in May. The session is 2 hours every Saturday and open to all Kindergarten registered for August 2023. The program will have a Teacher, ECE and supervising Principal to oversee the sessions.

## 8. October 31<sup>st</sup> Data

Special Education data is completed twice a year; the end of October and March however with the move to PowerSchool there has been delays in obtaining this data for the last 2 years. Daphne presented to the data to the committee and advised that the data is not 100% accurate as there are still a large number of students that need to have assessments completed. Page 6 of the minutes show a complete list of the data reviewed.

## 9. Agency Reports

### **North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services**

NEOFACS has adopted a new approach in regards to protection. Signs of Safety: A New Practice Framework For our Child Welfare Services

Signs of Safety® is a new way of working with families when concerns about a child's safety or well-being are brought to the attention of North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services (NEOFACS).

In September 2020, NEOFACS decided to move forward with adopting the Signs of Safety approach as its practice framework for all child welfare services.

We have a multi-year transformation plan designed to embed Signs of Safety. Staff are currently participating in learning modules to increase their knowledge of the approach and put it into practice.

Our Signs of Safety implementation journey will fundamentally change how our child welfare services will work with children, youth and families.

**Mental Health Week** - Annually, Mental Health Week is acknowledged during the first week of May with an emphasis on children's mental health. Recognizing Children's Mental Health Week is more important than ever!

Children's Mental Health Week (CMHW) is an opportunity to raise awareness about child and youth mental health and remind families of services available in our community. North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services (NEOFACS) is here to help children, youth, and their families struggling with mental health.

We are encouraging the community to be a part of activities throughout the week. See what's happening during Children's Mental Health Week from May 2-8 at [www.neofacs.org/CMHW2022](http://www.neofacs.org/CMHW2022).

### **Here are services you can expect in the Districts of Cochrane and Timiskaming:**

- NEOFACS provides wraparound services for children, youth and their families with [a wide range of supports](#). Here, children, youth and their families can access the experts your child or youth may need, which may include: child and youth workers, social workers, psychotherapists, psychologists and psychiatrists. Our services are free of charge.
- By contacting NEOFACS, families can quickly access a [single session](#) with a child and youth mental health worker.
- We also offer [crisis services](#) where you can expect 24/7 crisis support services for child and youth mental health.

### **Bursary Awards Program**

Through the Bursary Awards Program, the [North Eastern Ontario Children's Foundation](#) awards bursaries and endowments to deserving youth that are currently receiving or have previously received services from North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services.

The program provides much-deserved recognition, fosters confidence, and assists youth in pursuing their goals, in most cases, through post-secondary education or training.

This year, the newly created Human Services Community Bursary was added to the Bursary Awards Program and is open to the general public. This bursary offers educational support to youth from Cochrane-Timiskaming who are pursuing post-secondary education in the human services field. Check out the full details about the bursary below, including the application form.

For questions and information, or if you require the application in a different format, please contact [foundation@neofacs.org](mailto:foundation@neofacs.org).

**Youth Engagement** – There are currently 4 youth groups within the agency. Three of the groups are working on room decorations to make the space more relaxed and approachable. The groups choose the colors and the themes for the rooms. The funding was provided by the Bell Let's Talk program.

**Autism Ontario** – Karla shared with Daphne information for schools regarding Autism Awareness Day. The information was shared with the schools to sign up if they would like to participate.

## **Celebrate the Spectrum:**

Celebrate the Spectrum is our theme for World Autism Day 2023 celebrations. It is an opportunity for positive action to provide spaces of support and advocacy for our diverse communities while learning about autism and how to make our communities better for people on the autism spectrum. The campaign is flexible, and there are many great ways to get your students involved, including:

- Registering for the Celebrate the Spectrum School Giving Challenge and fundraise in support of Autism Ontario
- Creating a 'strengths link' with your class
- Donating to Autism Ontario

Autism Ontario is launching Celebrate the Spectrum to enhance our activities and celebrations throughout the whole month of April.

- Elementary and Secondary Toolkits can be downloaded here: <https://celebratethespectrum.com/toolkits/>
- Sign your school up at <https://www.autismontario.com/CTS-Form>
- <https://celebratethespectrum.com/>

If you are interested in participating in our Celebrate the Spectrum campaign you can connect with your [local Autism Ontario Region](#) or email [celebratethespectrum@autismontario.com](mailto:celebratethespectrum@autismontario.com).

## **Celebrate the Spectrum School Giving Challenge:**

Students and their schools are some of our most active supporters. In honour of these young autism champions, we're launching the Celebrate the Spectrum School Giving Challenge which will run throughout April. The school that raises the most donations in support of Autism Ontario will be eligible to win special recognition including an article in Autism Matters magazine. Each school's top fundraising student will be eligible for a chance to win an iPad! More detail and the registration form can be found through the Celebrate the Spectrum website at <https://celebratethespectrum.com/school-giving-challenge/>. Please help us promote this challenge with your schools and school board, let's urge all our school contacts to register and challenge a rival school!

Autism Ontario's Fund Development Department will be mailing trustees and schools to encourage participation over the next month. Keep your eyes open for updates and if you'd like more detail, please contact Erin Cunningham at [erin.cunningham@autismontario.com](mailto:erin.cunningham@autismontario.com)

## **Other news**

If you are looking for more information on local events to share with your SEAC, Autism Ontario's regional newsletters are an excellent source of information. To see what newsletters are available and to sign up, visit <https://www.autismontario.com/newsletter>

**10. Date of Next Meeting – April 19, 2023 at 11:45 a.m.**

**11. Other Business – review Ministry documents shared with the committee via email**

**12. Adjournment**

MOVED BY: S.Skalecki

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

CARRIED

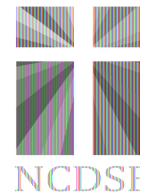
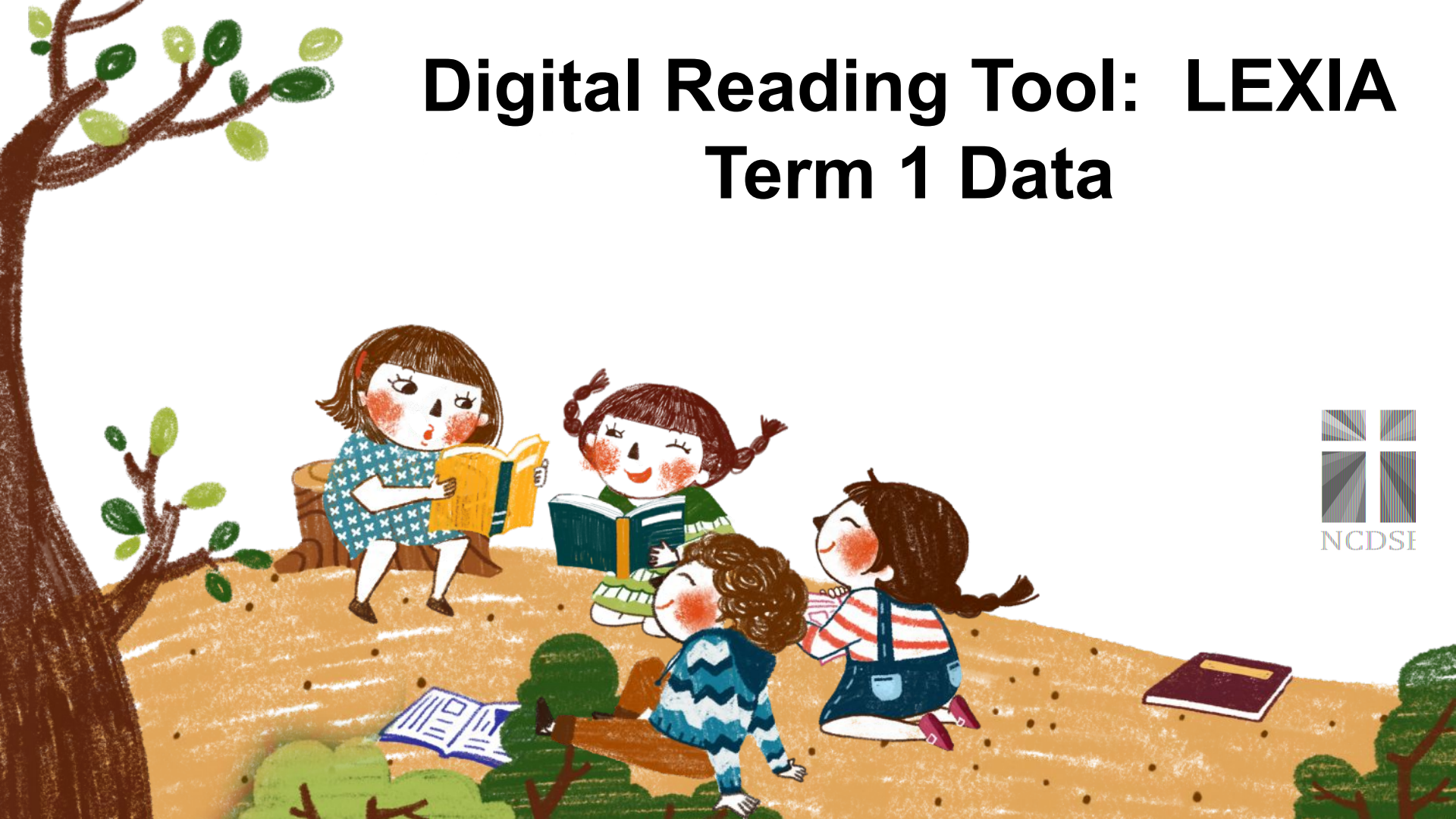
**EXCEPTIONALITIES BY SCHOOL MARCH 21, 2023**

SCHOOL	MILD INTELLECTUAL	LEARNING DISABILITY	BEHAVIOUR	LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT	AUTISM/PDD	MULTIPLE	BLIND/LOW VISION	SPEECH IMPAIRMENT	DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY	PHYSICAL DISABILITY	GIFTED	DEAF/HARD OF HEARING	Total #IPRC October 31, 2022	Non Identified with IEP October 31, 2022	TOTAL # of Students with IPRC/IEP October 31, 2022	TOTAL # of Students with IPRC/IEP March 31, 2021	Increase/ Decrease
AILEEN WRIGHT CATHOLIC SCHOOL	1	9	0	4	1	5	0	0	2	1	0	0	23	15	38	36	2
BISHOP BELLEAU SCHOOL	0	6	1	3	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	16	2	18	21	-3
ENGLISH CATHOLIC CENTRAL SCHOOL	2	18	2	0	5	10	0	0	3	0	0	0	40	16	56	65	-9
HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL	1	6	1	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	15	20	35	27	8
O'GORMAN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	2	23	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	18	59	63	-4
POPE FRANCIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	0	4	1	5	0	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	17	15	32	46	-14
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL - KIRKLAND LAKE	2	12	1	1	1	14	0	0	0	1	0	1	33	15	48	55	-7
ST. ANNE ENGLISH CATHOLIC SCHOOL	0	9	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	15	12	27	31	-4
ST. JEROME SCHOOL	1	1	0	1	2	5	0	0	3	1	0	0	14	15	29	25	4
ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL	2	6	0	1	5	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	22	6	28	23	5
ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC SCHOOL - COBALT	4	13	2	2	4	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	34	27	61	55	6
ST. PATRICK SCHOOL - KAPUSKASING	1	14	3	3	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	20	54	47	7
O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL	6	54	3	2	7	14	1	0	3	3	1	1	95	23	118	101	17
TOTAL OCT 31/2022	22	175	14	22	28	109	2	0	14	8	2	3	399	204	603	595	8
TOTAL MARCH 31/2021	34	189	18	24	26	70	1	2	10	13	2	4	393	202	595		

Represents an increase from previous year

# Digital Reading Tool: LEXIA

## Term 1 Data





**What is Lexia?**



**Implementation at  
the NCDSB**



**Current Student Data**



**Next Steps**







# What is Lexia?

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Lexia is a digital platform that focuses on developing a wide range of literacy skills for learners from FDK to Grade 8. It is divided into two programs - Core 5 for FDK to Grade 5 and PowerUp for Grade 6-8.

These programs are built upon the science of reading and structured literacy, delivering the systematic and explicit instruction learners need to truly comprehend, retain, and apply literacy foundations.

# Implementation at the NCDSB



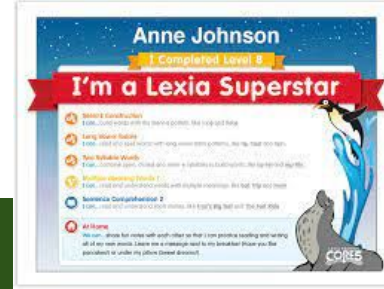
2020–2021

Introduction of Lexia to all students in FDK to Grade 8. Focus was on students using the program daily for the recommended time by grade.



2021–2022

Focus on developing teacher understanding of the tools available in the program to support teaching.



2022–2023


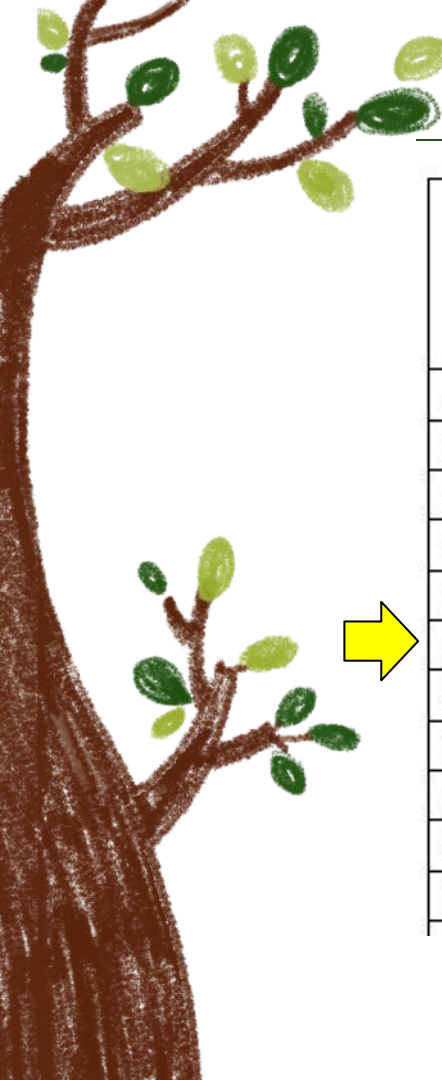
Focus on using support staff more strategically to support student learning using Lexia.



2023–2024

Renew all licenses for Core5 FDK to Grade 5; Purchase licenses for PowerUp for students working at the foundational level.

# Term 1 CORE 5 Data



School	Total # Core 5 Users	# Kids with 5+ Mths of Growth	% of Kids with 5+ Mths of Growth	Average # Mths of Growth	Average Minutes to Date	Average Units Completed Per Week
Aileen Wright	77	35	45.5	5.1	1181	6.7
BBS	56	14	25.0	3.4	767	5.7
ECCS	141	87	61.7	6.8	1375	8.6
Holy Family	95	26	27.4	3.8	894	5.2
Pope Francis	244	127	52.0	5.7	1086	8
Sacred Heart	58	51	87.9	8	1495	10
St. Anne	76	38	50.0	5.5	1177	6.9
St. Jerome	99	30	30.3	4	799	6
St. Joseph	84	47	56.0	5.4	1384	7.9
SPCO	101	49	48.5	5.5	1164	6.7
SPKP	95	26	27.4	4	704	6.1

**Average Number of Weeks Used: 20**

**Average number of Minutes per Week: 55 minutes**

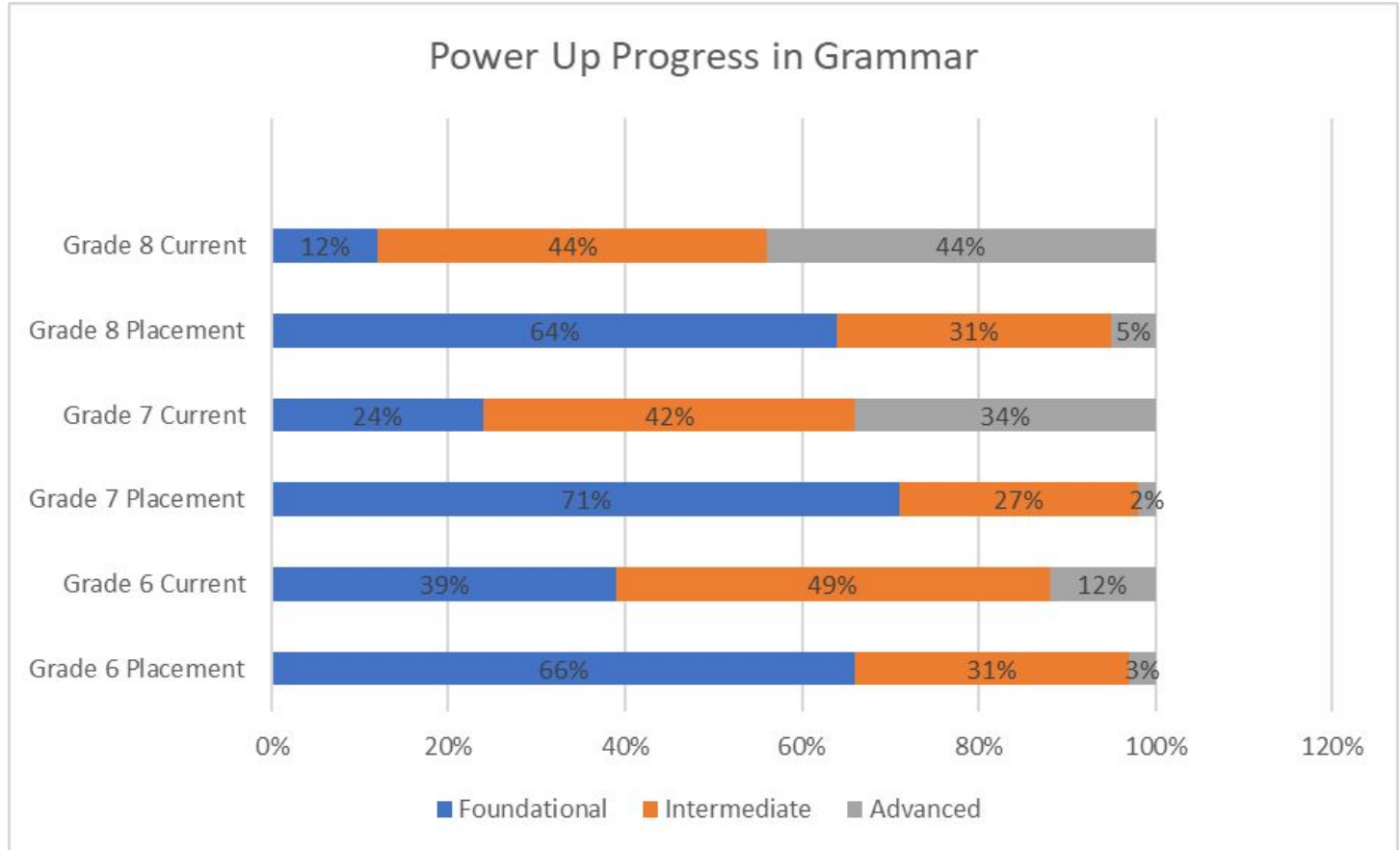


# Term 1 CORE 5 Data

School Name	Total Students with Predictors	On Target (%)	Some Risk (%)	High Risk (%)
AWCH	76	12	4	84
BBMO	53	17	4	79
ECCS	133	22	11	68
HFEN	94	20	4	76
OICS				
PFES	235	6	3	91
SAIF	75	9	3	88
SHKL	56	16	2	82
SJKL	80	8	3	90
SJTM	76	11	11	79
SPCO	94	20	6	73
SPKP	79	4	3	94

# Term 1 PowerUP Grammar Data

**Foundational K-2**  
**Intermediate Gr. 3-5**  
**Advanced Gr. 6-8**



# Term 1 PowerUP Grammar Data

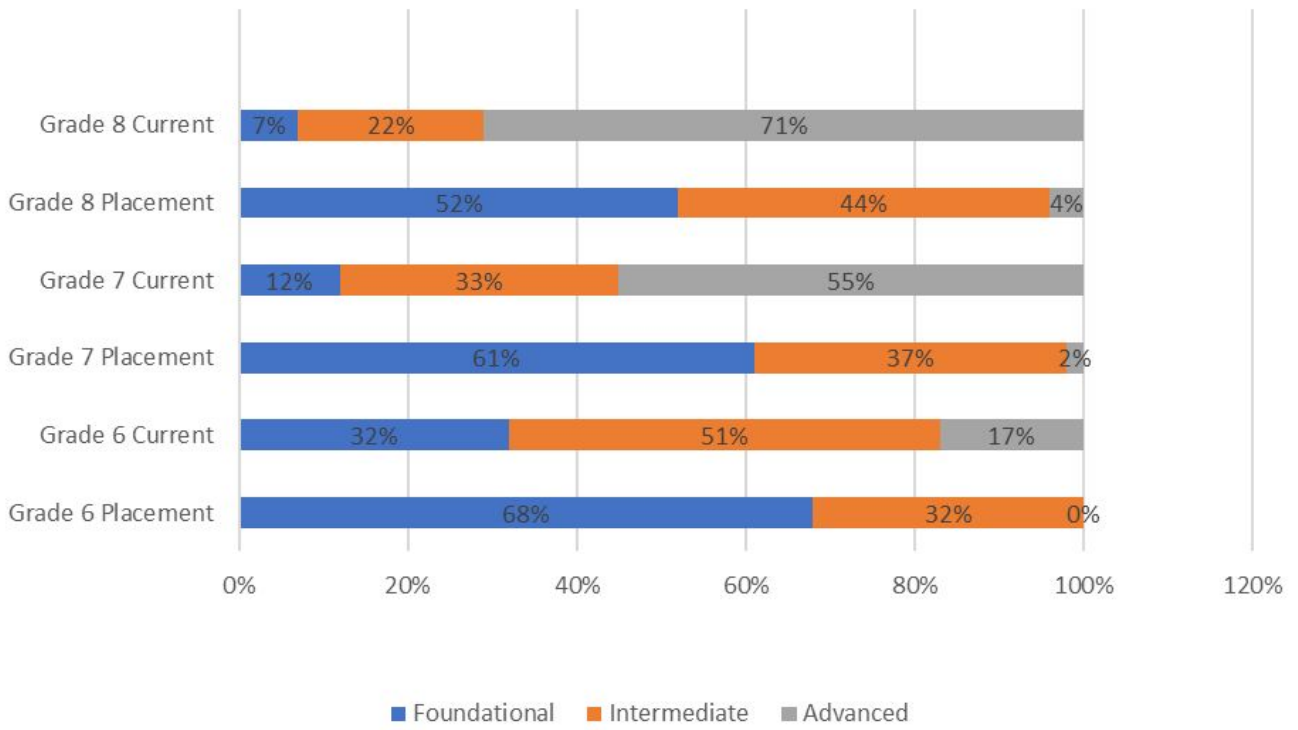
Foundational K-2  
Intermediate Gr. 3-5  
Advanced Gr. 6-8

School	Students	Instructional Zone			Movement into Intermediate or Advanced
		Foundational	Intermediate	Advanced	
AWCH	39	69% 15%	23% 57%	8% (Placement) 28% (Current)	54%
BBMO	17	71% 59%	29% 35%	0% (Placement) 6% (Current)	12%
ECCS	102	67% 12%	31% 54%	2% (Placement) 34% (Current)	55%
HFEN	20	60% 50%	35% 30%	5% (Placement) 20% (Current)	15%
OICS	213	61% 26%	36% 51%	3% (Placement) 23% (Current)	35%
PFES	4	0% 0%	100% 100%	0% (Placement) 0% (Current)	0%
SAIF	43	79% 44%	19% 40%	2% (Placement) 16% (Current)	35%
SHKL	93	79% 30%	18% 39%	3% (Placement) 31% (Current)	48%
SPCO	28	67% 36%	29% 35%	4% (Placement) 29% (Current)	32%
SPKP	53	60% 45%	36% 36%	4% (Placement) 19% (Current)	15%
SJTM	21	47% 33%	43% 43%	10% (Placement) 24% (Current)	14%

# Term 1 PowerUP Word Study Data

**Foundational K-2**  
**Intermediate Gr. 3-5**  
**Advanced Gr. 6-8**

Power Up Progress in Word Study



# Term 1 PowerUP Word Study Data

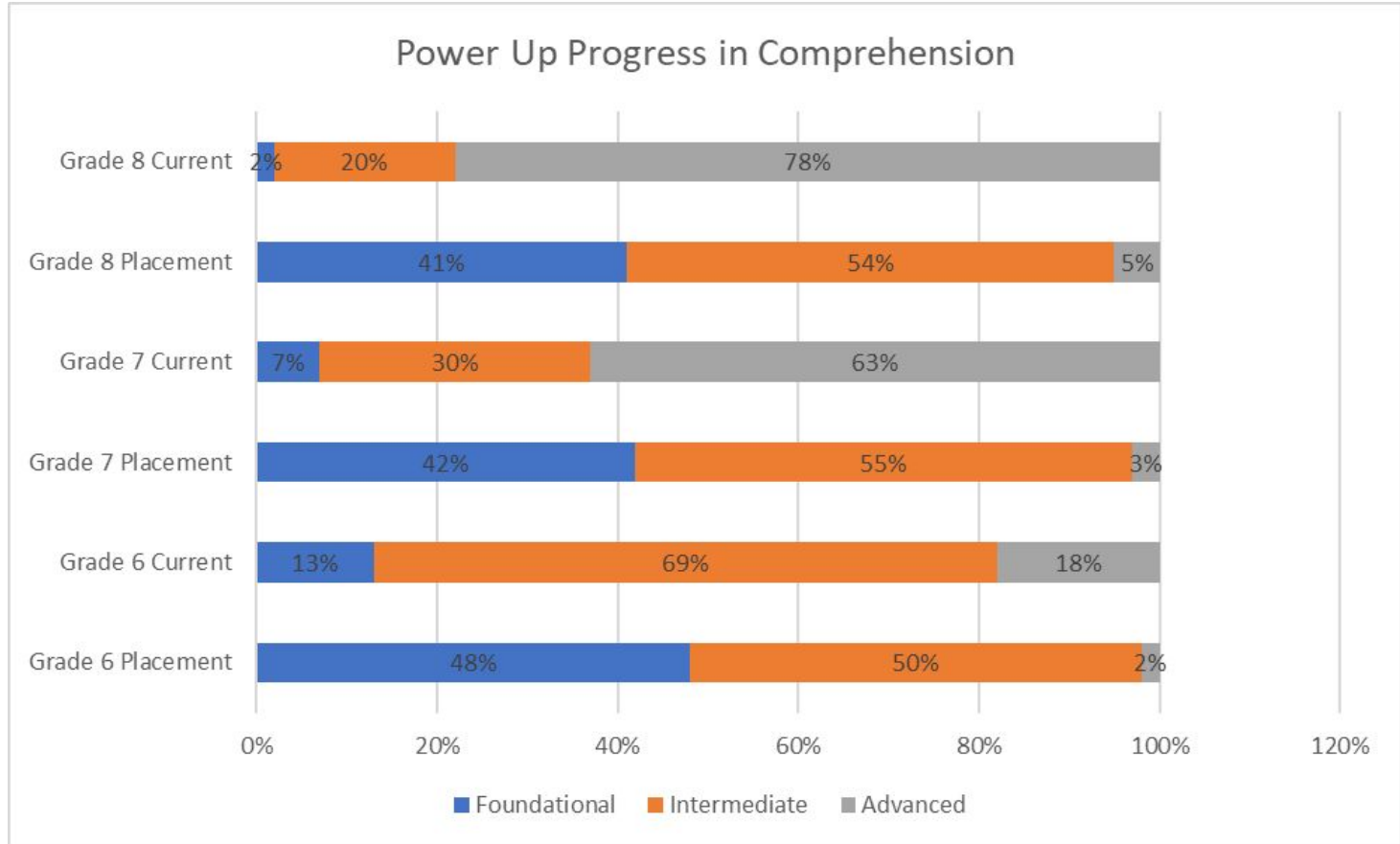
Foundational K-2  
Intermediate Gr. 3-5  
Advanced Gr. 6-8

School	Students	Instructional Zone			Movement into Intermediate or Advanced
		Foundational	Intermediate	Advanced	
AWCH	39	62% 13%	38% 44%	0% (Placement) 43% (Current)	49%
BBMO	17	82% 35%	18% 41%	0% (Placement) 24% (Current)	47%
ECCS	102	45% 12%	51% 33%	4% (Placement) 55% (Current)	51%
HFEN	20	70% 25%	30% 45%	0% (Placement) 30% (Current)	45%
OICS	213	66% 22%	32% 35%	2% (Placement) 43% (Current)	44%
PFES	4	50% 50%	50% 50%	0% (Placement) 0% (Current)	0%
SAIF	43	56% 28%	44% 44%	0% (Placement) 28% (Current)	28%
SHKL	93	60% 17%	39% 33%	1% (Placement) 50% (Current)	48%
SPCO	28	57% 25%	43% 50%	0% (Placement) 25% (Current)	32%
SPKP	53	60% 36%	34% 34%	6% (Placement) 30% (Current)	25%
SJTM	21	67% 33%	33% 53%	0% (Placement) 14% (Current)	33%



# Term 1 PowerUP Comprehension Data

**Foundational K-2**  
**Intermediate Gr. 3-5**  
**Advanced Gr. 6-8**



# Term 1 PowerUP Comprehension Data



Foundational K-2  
Intermediate Gr. 3-5  
Advanced Gr. 6-8

School	Students	Instructional Zone			Movement into Intermediate or Advanced
		Foundational	Intermediate	Advanced	
AWCH	39	41% 5%	56% 36%	3% (Placement) 59% (Current)	56%
BBMO	17	47% 24%	53% 58%	0% (Placement) 18% (Current)	24%
ECCS	102	40% 5%	56% 37%	4% (Placement) 58% (Current)	54%
HFEN	20	50% 10%	40% 50%	10% (Placement) 40% (Current)	40%
OICS	213	45% 12%	52% 36%	3% (Placement) 52% (Current)	49%
PFES	4	25% 25%	75% 75%	0% (Placement) 0% (Current)	0%
SAIF	43	53% 16%	47% 56%	0% (Placement) 28% (Current)	37%
SHKL	93	45% 10%	53% 35%	2% (Placement) 55% (Current)	53%
SPCO	28	54% 11%	39% 46%	7% (Placement) 43% (Current)	43%
SPKP	53	43% 17%	51% 45%	6% (Placement) 38% (Current)	32%
SJTM	21	38% 19%	62% 62%	0% (Placement) 19% (Current)	19%

# Next Steps

- Use the most up to date information to plan for tutoring supports
- Work with principals to ensure maximum use of the tool in every grade
- Share best practices with EAs to increase supports to students
- Plan for renewal of CORE5 licenses board wide
- Review the need for licenses for PowerUp

