



95 Percent Group Inc.
475 Half Day Rd, Suite 350
Lincolnshire, IL 60069

Phone: 847-499-8200
Fax: 847-793-0033
www.95percentgroup.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Barbara Patterson
95 Percent Group
847-499-8211
bpatterson@95percentgroup.com

Indianola Community Schools Honored for Student Reading Achievement in Grades 1 - 3
Earns R.E.A.D. Award using 95 Percent Group's Products and Processes to Improve Reading Performance

Indianola, IA: 95 Percent Group recently presented Indianola Community Schools with the company's prestigious **R.E.A.D. Award** for demonstrating instructional excellence and dedication supporting readers in the district's four elementary schools.

"Our partnership with 95 Percent Group began in 2015 when district teachers, instructional coaches, and administrators were asked to attend reading workshops and conferences throughout the country to learn more about what was available to help teach and improve student's reading skills," said Cindy Slauson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

"The biggest challenge we faced was determining how to help the struggling readers in our district by identifying exactly what skills students were missing. The 95 Percent Group diagnostic screeners are helping our staff narrow down what reading skills students need to work on. Having the 95 Percent Group materials that match the deficit areas plus incorporate the different learner modalities have been transformational for teachers," Slauson continued.

Slauson explained how providing 95 Percent Group product training for district educators also positively influenced student success. "The amazing professional development has made a lasting impact on instruction for all students throughout the instructional day and across curriculum areas. Having diagnostic assessments that provide targeted skill information, intervention materials that match student needs, and using a consistent product across the district has given teachers a sense of confidence in their ability to communicate with each other and implement great teaching strategies."

Dr. Hall recently traveled to Indianola to present the R.E.A.D. Award at Wilder Elementary School, the first school in the district to pilot the reading intervention program. She commended the teachers for their commitment to close the reading achievement gap. "It's been a pleasure working with teachers and administrators across the district, to witness your

dedication, and to see so many students achieve reading proficiency,” said Dr. Hall. “We look forward to continuing this partnership with Indianola and to supporting your continued success.”

With any educational program what matters the most is student outcomes. Early results indicate that by instructing with 95 Percent Group products and training in addition to their core curriculum, Indianola Community Schools are on a journey to close learning gaps and improve reading performance for all students.

Since Fall 2015, when Indianola Community Schools implemented a plan using 95 Percent Group reading intervention training and products, the reading proficiency rate among students in grades 1-3 has risen 12.6%. In Spring 2017, the Iowa FAST Assessment indicated that 83.5% of all students in grades 1-3 were proficient, up from 66.4% at the beginning of this implementation. Also, when comparing composite scores with six other districts in the Des Moines, IA. regional area; Indianola posted the largest and only double-digit increases in reading proficiency for the past two years: 14.4% (2015-2016) and 10.6% (2015-2017).

“Using the 95 Percent Group’s products has been transformational for both teachers and students. Although this journey is just beginning, we believe that our data indicates that we have the right diagnostic assessments, materials, processes, and training provided by the 95 Percent Group, to continuously improve the reading process in our district,” said Slauson.

About 95 Percent Group Inc.

95 Percent Group Inc. is an education company focused on helping teachers identify and effectively address the needs of struggling readers. We provide professional development, diagnostic assessments, and instructional materials to implement MTSS/RTI frameworks and to ensure that students receive targeted, research-based reading interventions to address specific skill deficits. Learn more at www.95percentgroup.com.

About Indianola Schools

Indianola CSD is located approximately 15 miles south of Des Moines, Iowa. Indianola is a unique school district in the sense that it is close to the largest city in Iowa, but it is one of the smallest suburbs surrounding the Des Moines metro with a population of close to 16,000. Indianola CSD has 4 elementary schools all with student populations between 450-500 students. The district also has one middle school and high school with a total student population of 3,529 students. Close to 38% of those elementary students qualify for free and reduced school lunches. Currently we have 11.36% of students receiving special education services and 1.76% of students identified as English Language Learners. Visit us at www.indianola.k12.ia.us.

###