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Capital School District Named R.E.A.D. Award Winner

Elementary Schools Partner with 95 Percent Group to Accelerate K-1 Reading Performance

Dover, Delaware: Capital School District recently received the **R.E.A.D. Award** from their literacy partner, 95 Percent Group Inc, recognizing significant reading improvement for K-1 students during the 2016-17 school year. The yearly honor is given to schools or districts that *demonstrate instructional excellence and dedication, in using 95 Percent Group's processes and products, to support readers who struggle.*

"The 95 Percent Group implementation began as a district initiative to improve the knowledge and skills of district instructional leaders, school level coaches, reading interventionists, K-1 special educators, and K-1 classroom teachers," said Pam Herrera, Director of Elementary Instruction. "In addition, a high rate of mobility across Capital's seven elementary schools created the need for a consistent literacy framework, across all schools, to close the achievement gap. 95 Percent Group worked with us to provide a customized plan, which immediately provided this support."

The award presentation was made during the January Capital School District Board of Education meeting by Judie Caroleo, 95 Percent Group's Director of Training and Development.

"The reading growth in the district exemplifies their commitment to using data-based decision making to improve outcomes for all students," said Caroleo. "From the district office to the building level administrators, literacy coaches and the teachers who are providing the instruction, everyone in the district works tirelessly to meet student needs. In our second year of implementation, the data in both kindergarten and first grade showed a significant response to the application of the instruction using 95 Percent Group materials. We look forward to seeing that growth continue as we move into the next phase of our partnership."

Capital School District saw outstanding EOY 2016-2017 results. The Kindergarten DIBELS Next composite scores showed that 84% of students met Benchmark, a 21% increase over the prior year. Also, there was a 40% increase in the number of students meeting Benchmark from the beginning to the end of the school year.

2017 – 2018 BOY data for Grade 1 demonstrated that 60% of students were Benchmark based on the composite score. Several schools also showed an elevated percentage of first grade students testing at or above benchmark at the beginning of the school year retaining a significantly higher reading proficiency level over the summer.

“95 Percent Group’s Implementation Plan fit seamlessly into Capital’s current Response to Intervention (RTI) framework. The products addressed our need for evidence-based materials that were systematic, explicit, and aligned to a Phonological Continuum. Students were able to build automaticity of phonological skills from simple to complex while the built-in progress monitoring tools provided ongoing feedback to teachers about student growth,” added Herrera. As a result, the Capital School District plans to expand the implementation to Grade 2 during the 2018-19 school year.

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 the Capital School District

The Capital School District is governed by the Board of Education, and comprised of teachers, support staff, a board of education and administrators dedicated to serving the needs of more than 6,000 students living in the region surrounding the City of Dover, Delaware’s capital. The District includes seven elementary schools, two middle schools, one senior high school and the Kent County Community School serving severely handicapped children. The District offers comprehensive programs for student in Pre-K through 12th grade, college credit programs in high school, extended day and year programs, numerous community partnerships, extensive arts and athletics programs. The District strives to accomplish its mission by providing a safe, healthy and inviting learning environment, state of the art instructional programs, highly trained, committed staff in partnership with the entire community to meet the needs of the District’s diverse population. The Capital School District is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, gender (including pregnancy, childbirth and related medical conditions), national origin, citizenship or ancestry, age, disability, marital status, veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation, or gender identity, against victims of domestic violence, sexual offenses, or stalking, or upon any other categories protected by federal, state, or local law. Inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies should be directed to the Title IX, District 504 and ADA Coordinators: Capital School District, 198 Commerce Way, Dover DE 19904. Phone (302) 672-1500

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