SPOTLIGHT TEXAS

New results from Southside



43% → 66%

of third graders demonstrating significant phonics skill advancement

At the start of the 2022–2023 school year, 43% of third graders were performing at a kindergarten level in phonics. By year's end, 66% had advanced at least one grade level, with gains also seen among English learners and students receiving special education services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Southside Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas, identified an opportunity to strengthen foundational literacy by addressing gaps in its English phonics instruction. Partnering with 95 Percent Group, district leaders implemented 95 Phonics Core Program across elementary campuses, giving teachers the training, resources, and shared instructional framework to build confidence in systematic phonics instruction.

As educators strengthened their practices and students received more consistent instruction, the district began seeing meaningful growth in phonics skills, including among English learners and students receiving special education services.

This is a story about what becomes possible when educators have the right tools, training, and instructional foundation to help every student become a capable, confident reader.

> "If we are starting our students from the beginning with this kind of direct instruction on phonics, we can go a long way towards preventing some of our students from struggling at all. 95 Phonics Core Program is instruction for everyone, not just those who need more support.

ALEJANDRA RAMIREZ

Elementary Reading Coordinator PreK–5, Southside ISD

STUDENTS SERVED	SCHOOLS INVOLVED	GRADE LEVELS	PROGRAM USED	YEAR IMPLEMENTED
6,000+	Southside Independent School District	K-3	95 Phonics Core Program®	2022

Ready to learn more? Contact a literacy specialist.

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95 Percent Group