

SUCCESS STORIES

SFA TUTORING INCREASES STUDENT READING LEVELS AT LIGHTNING SPEED



THE CHALLENGE

In Baltimore City, there is a crisis when it comes to students' reading achievement. Only 21% of elementary school and 22% of middle school students are reading at or above proficient levels compared to the statewide average of 44%. To remedy this, BCPS dedicated American Rescue Plan funding for tutoring to improve students' literacy skills, and close the gap.

BCPS'S SFA APPROACH

BCPS chose to partner with SFA because of its research-proven results, first implementing SFA Tutoring during the 2020-2021 school year. The program started in just 10 schools in 2020 and has now expanded to 37 elementary and middle schools. Each school has a full-time SFA tutor that works with an average of 30 students a day, 5 days a week. The tutor uses information from formative assessments to deliver daily tutoring sessions that target individual students' needs. The tutor, school staff, and SFA work together to monitor student data and set goals for progress.

RESULTS

With the help of research-proven SFA Tutoring, students are accelerating quickly, and schools are seeing exciting results:

- During the school year 2020-2021, students in SFA Tutoring achieved 1.5 years of progress in 9 months, despite the challenges of remote learning caused by the pandemic.
- In 2022, at Matthew A. Henson Elementary in West Baltimore students demonstrated an average of 3 months of progress in just 1 month.
- In the spring of 2022, BCPS students in Tutoring with ThemeReads grew SIX times faster in reading than in previous years.