

Project Name: Reading for Life Training

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Report Date: April 10, 2020

SWIFT Agreement Number: 157205

Annual Plan T-Number: 20A37

SharePoint ID Number: 202

Project Abstract

College Reading Readiness is a reading intervention that accelerates academic reading skills for students who are deaf or hard of hearing or students with other learning difficulties. It was designed to equip students (high school and older) to meet the reading demands in the postsecondary setting. The goal of this course is to improve reading comprehension of academic, nonfiction texts, to develop reading strategies that help construct meaning from these texts, and to increase college-ready student skills. This program measures reading growth through the Lexile Framework and uses the Pearson MyReadyLab (Reading for Life) curriculum for authentic academic reading material. *Note: A student reading Lexile score of 550L or greater is recommended before entering the reading program.*

Project Milestones & Timeline

- 1. Reading Training - November 25 & 26, 2020:** Provide a two-day (10 hours total) training for up to eleven participants/teachers, which includes an overview of the College Reading Readiness pedagogy and essential reading skills, assistance with creating an individually designed scope and sequence and daily lesson plans for the 2019-2020 school year, and personalized training on setting up the *Pearson My Reading Lab* online course for teacher/student use.
 - Training completed on November 25th and 26th, 2019 in St. Cloud, MN
 - Total 8 participants trained - 7 teachers and 1 administrator
 - All participants were provided materials (flash drive) to develop a year-long academic reading course which included: *Scope and sequence, daily activities, objectives and student calendar, activities for each chapter, vocabulary enrichment activities, career search activities, and revised tests/quizzes for each chapter.*
- 2. Added Consultation - December – April, 2020:** Provide additional consultation for questions regarding the reading program, curriculum, student progress or online course management. (Up to 20 hours after initial training)
 - Completed over 25 email requests and 3 phone calls to help seven teachers with MyLab online course management, student progress concerns, and questions about ordering Pearson materials between November and April.
- 3. Pearson Materials Update - November - December 2020:** The reading program uses both reading books (Reading for Life) and online curriculum (MyReadingLab) available through Pearson, Inc. Since the time that the reading training was being organized (August – September) until the training took place (November), the *Reading for Life* book was discontinued by Pearson. This created problems with obtaining the materials needed by students to complete this reading course. It wasn't until December 19th, that a solution for ordering the materials was created by Pearson. By December, Pearson also indicated that these materials may not be available for the following school year. These problems negatively impacted the teachers' willingness to use the reading materials needed for this training.

- Before the training, Greta Palmberg (Educational Consultant) contacted Pearson representatives in August and again in September for the ISBN and ordering information for the needed materials. On September 18th, this information was sent to Mary Cashman-Bakken (MDE) and Nan Records (Sourcewell), who were setting up the training.
 - Days after the training (November 27), Greta Palmberg received emails from two of the participants who were having a difficult time trying to order the materials from their school's Pearson representative.
 - On December 2nd, Greta sent an email to the Reading for Life participants on ordering instructions. Greta spent over 6 hours on the phone, over multiple days, with Higher Ed Department from Pearson and finally received the ordering information that she sent out to teachers. On Wednesday (December 4th), Greta received another email from Pearson telling her that the ordering information she was given was incorrect and Reading for Life is no longer available. After multiple attempts to confirm this information and a call into Darshon Bearup from Pearson, Greta was able to have a conference call with the national manager from Pearson to clear up this ordering issue. Greta sent another email to teachers with the ordering information on December 19th.
4. **E-Blasts - December – April:** Provide a minimum of six e-blasts through email with reading strategies, teaching methods and resource reminders. Update: only four e-blasts were completed due to the COVID-19 crisis which closed schools which began on March 18th. At this point, special education teachers were working with their administrators and school districts on how they support their students while they transitioned to online learning. Many of the teachers in this program were unable to continue with the reading program at this point.
- **December 19th** e-mail blast containing directions by Pearson about the current reading materials available and how each ordering option relates to the reading program. A handout was also included with detailed information and instructions for ordering when contacting the Pearson representative.
 - **February 14th** e-mail blast sent to remind teachers how to conduct weekly Lexile reading data. Also included four handouts: essential reading skills, Lexile measures, Supporting Details, overview of reading program.
 - **March** – individual e-blast information to teachers using the program with video links for using the online curriculum and resource reminders of what is on the flash drive.
 - **April 6th** – e-mail blast sent to remind teachers to send in their data. Also included Pearson's links to help with online learning: Transitioning to online learning (video), 5 Tips to Keep Learners Motivated and Engaged when Teaching Online, 9 Strategies for Effective Online Teaching, and Pearson Resource Page: Learning online during a pandemic.

End-of-the-Year Reading Summary (for the MDE July 2018 & November 2019 Reading Training)

1. Summary of Reading Training (November 2019)

- Of the 7 teachers who took the reading training, 3 teachers used the reading curriculum with students this year.
- Two of the Seven teachers did not respond to requests for data.
- Two teachers are not using the reading program this year. One will use with just the book next year and the other did not buy the materials due to availability of the materials for the following school year.
- Three teachers are using the reading program with students after training in November. Two are using the online curriculum and one is using just the book with students.
- Between the issues of Pearson's availability of the materials and school closing due to COVID-19, the reading program did not achieve the results that were hoped for when the training took place in November.

2. Summary of continued use of the reading program by July 2018 participants:

- Of the 11 teachers trained in the July 2018 session, 7 responded to requests for updates for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Two teachers are not using the reading program this year. (One of these because they are no longer teaching.)
- Two teachers reported that they are not using the reading program this year because they do not have students on their caseloads appropriate for the program. They would like to use it next year if they have students that would benefit.
- Three teachers are continuing to use the reading program with students this year. One teacher continued with the same two students as last year. Another teacher began working with a new student this year, but had to stop in March after school closing. The third teacher is working with four students this year and took the reading program totally online after school was closed in March. She is continuing reading instruction online until the end of the school year.

Teacher	Training Date	Current Use of Reading Program
Teacher 1	Nov. 2019	Working with two students in the Reading for Life online curriculum. No results shared.
Teacher 2	Nov. 2019	Began using the Reading for Life (book only not online curriculum) with students in late February. Stopped in March when school was closed due to COVID-19.
Teacher 3	Nov. 2019	Working with student in the Reading for Life online curriculum. No results shared.
Teacher 4	Nov. 2019	Will be using the Reading for Life book with students next school year.
Teacher 5	Nov. 2019	Not using the reading program due to the problems with ordering and availability for next school year.
Teacher 6	Nov. 2019	No response to repeated emails for data.
Teacher 7	Nov. 2019	No response to repeated emails for data.
DHH Teacher 8	July 2018	This school year continuing to work with two students from previous year.
DHH Teacher 9	July 2018	This year began working with one student in early fall (Lexile growth 820L to 936L by January). Stopped in March when school was closed due to COVID-19.
DHH Teacher 10	July 2018	Not using with any students this year. (The two students that were scheduled for this reading program moved out of the district.) Planning to use with students in the next school year.
DHH Teacher 11	July 2018	This year has no student that is appropriate for this reading program. Would like to use next year if applicable to a student.
Teacher 12	July 2018	This year using with four students (11 th and 12 th grade). Still using and went to total online reading program after COVID-19 closing.
DHH Teacher 13	July 2018	Not using reading program this year.