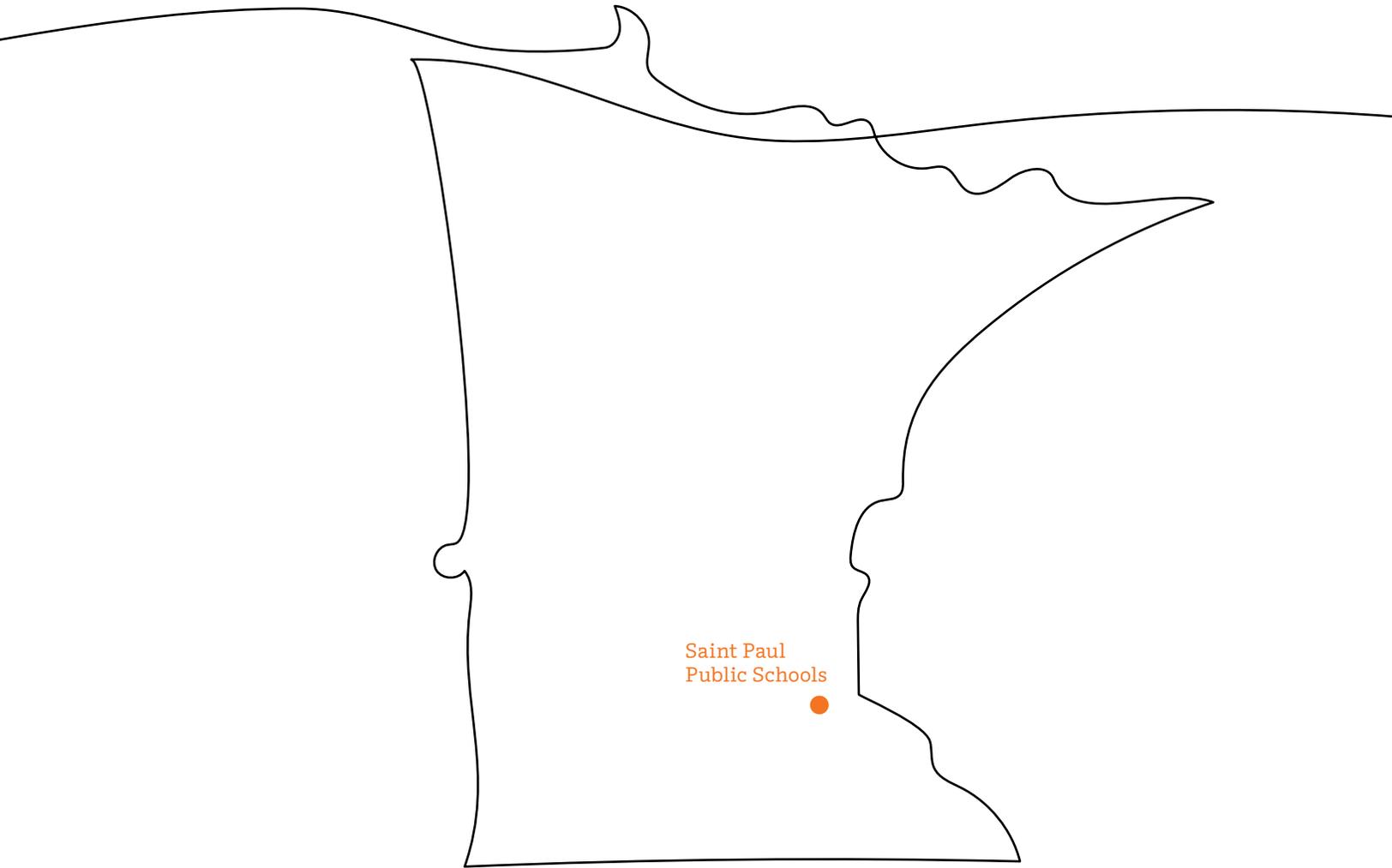


# Making the shift to the Science of Reading

Saint Paul Public Schools raises reading proficiency from 23% to 86% in one year with Amplify Caminos and mCLASS Lectura.



Saint Paul  
Public Schools

# Background

Saint Paul Public Schools is Minnesota’s second-largest school district, serving approximately 32,000 students. The district is made up of 29.2% Asian, 23.8% Black, 22.6% white, 15% Hispanic, 0.9% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 0.1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander students; among all students, 55.2% are eligible for the federal free and reduced price meal program.



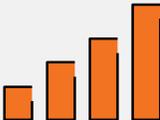
### Challenge

Saint Paul Public Schools did not have a unified, high-quality Spanish literacy curriculum for its bilingual schools.



### Solution

The district adopted Amplify Caminos and mCLASS® Lectura at one school before broader implementation.



### Impact

After strong growth, with kindergarten benchmark scores rising from 23% to 86%, Amplify is being expanded to more schools.

# Challenge

While the district has a rich history of offering bilingual education through dual language immersion programs, it lacked an actual Spanish literacy curriculum for many years. In the 2023–24 school year, each of the district’s three Spanish immersion elementary schools was taking its own approach and using different core resources to support Spanish literacy instruction. Stivaliss Licon-Gervich, principal at Riverview Spanish/English Dual Immersion Elementary School, said, “There were so many inconsistencies; everything was just random. The kids were receiving an education that was dependent on the

teacher and how many years they’ve been teaching and what they wanted to teach, because there was nothing aligned in terms of content.” The district’s mCLASS Lectura data showed the impact of inconsistency, with 80% of students scoring below benchmark. While some schools came together to try to align their resources, the global pandemic disrupted this effort. The district also struggled with high teacher turnover, furthering the need for a consistent curriculum.

# Solution

When Licona-Gervich became a principal in 2022, armed with COVID-related funding, she and her team started to review Spanish literacy curricula. They were dismayed by the sheer number of curricula that were merely translations of English texts, rather than authentic texts by native Spanish-speaking authors. However, when the team reviewed Amplify Caminos, Licona-Gervich was thrilled by the program's bona fides, noting, "It's so authentic. These were the stories I read in my home country that I learned in school. So that really stood out. ... When we looked at the content of the Teachers Guide, we could really see a lot of the Science of Reading work, especially in teaching phonics and a very structured literacy approach." She and her team also chose to adopt mCLASS Lectura, to ensure parity of assessment.



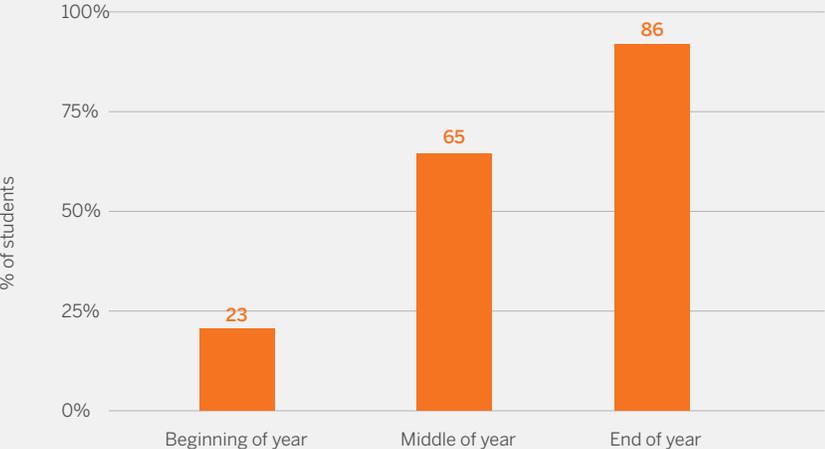
Implementation fidelity was of paramount importance to the team. They were careful to dedicate the right amount of time to Amplify Caminos instruction, emphasizing that the program was to be followed as designed. They also assured teachers that they would learn a lot in the first year of implementation. Some things would go well, while others would not, and the schools would adjust accordingly. And that's exactly what they did.

# Impact

By January, the district was seeing an impact in both the classrooms and the data. Megan Budke, Immersion Indigenous and World Language Coordinator for Saint Paul Public Schools, said, "I walked into a kindergarten class, two or three days after winter break, and I watched this amazing teacher. She stood up there with a big book and [said], 'We're gonna have a read-aloud.' And I was excited to hear every single kid in that room read the book with her, unprompted, in kindergarten, in January!"

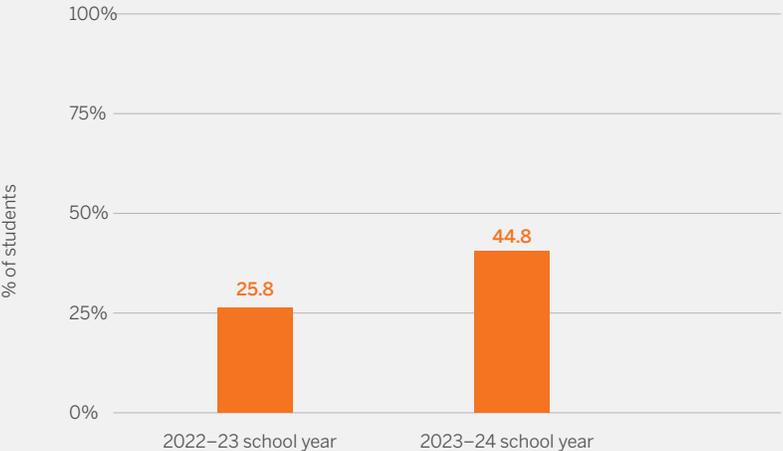
The mCLASS Lectura data confirmed the growth Budke observed. In that kindergarten class, while just 23% of students scored at or above benchmark on mCLASS Lectura at the beginning of the year, 65% did so by winter and 86% did so by the end of the school year. This demonstrates the profound impact of both Amplify Caminos and the critical implementation strategies employed throughout the year.

**Riverview Spanish/English Dual Immersion Elementary School kindergarten students scoring at or above benchmark in mCLASS Lectura in the 2023–24 school year**



Growth was also seen in the upper elementary grades. In particular, a fifth grade classroom used both Amplify Caminos and an English literacy program, with powerful results. In just one year, preliminary Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment scores revealed an impressive leap from 25.8% to 44.8% of students meeting the benchmark. This outstanding growth underscores the effectiveness of Amplify’s integrated curriculum in fostering academic excellence.

**Riverview Spanish/English Dual Immersion Elementary School  
fifth grade students meeting the benchmark in MCA Reading  
state assessment**



# Conclusion

Looking forward, the district anticipates building on its momentum by deepening the implementation of Amplify Caminos and mCLASS Lectura, and adding mCLASS DIBELS at Riverview Spanish/English Dual Immersion Elementary School, as well as expanding the use of these programs to the two additional Spanish immersion elementary schools in the district. There’s palpable excitement about pushing boundaries and setting new benchmarks, and Amplify is a key partner in this journey. Together, Saint Paul Public Schools and Amplify are committed to shaping not just classrooms, but futures, ensuring that the students are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in an ever-changing world.

For more information about  
Amplify's complete early literacy  
suite based on the Science of Reading,  
visit **[amplify.com](https://www.amplify.com)**.

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