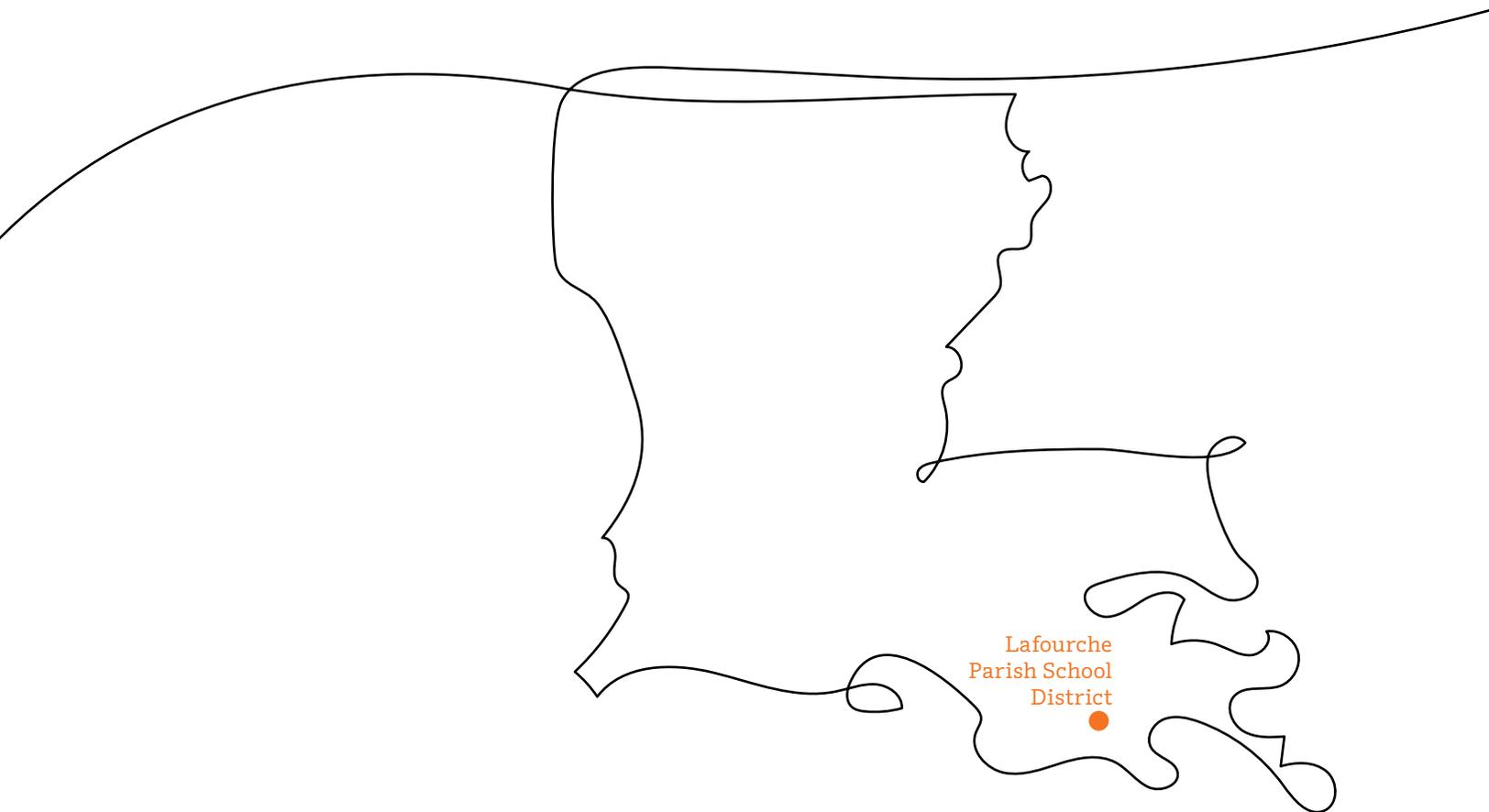


# Making the shift to the Science of Reading

With Amplify CKLA, Louisiana's Lafourche Parish School District improves third-grade LEAP scores to 73% basic or better, surpassing the state average.



Lafourche  
Parish School  
District

# Background

The student body at the 31 schools served by the Lafourche Parish Public School District in Thibodaux, Louisiana is 60.2% white, 18.9% Black, 10.2% Hispanic/Latino, 3.1% American Indian or Alaska Native, 0.9% Asian or Asian/Pacific Islander, and 0.1% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander. In addition, 6.7% of students are of two or more races. In this district, 44% of students are eligible for the federal free and reduced-price meal program.



## Challenge

Lafourche Parish's literacy curriculum lacked alignment with the Science of Reading and didn't build deep knowledge. Leaders realized they had hit a ceiling with their current approach and needed a more structured, evidence-based solution.



## Solution

The district adopted Amplify CKLA and mCLASS®, focusing on training, implementation fidelity, and teacher support. Early internalization work built trust in the program, and ongoing help from Amplify staff ensured a smooth, effective rollout.



## Impact

Amplify's CKLA and mCLASS led to clear growth in Lafourche Parish. Student engagement and knowledge-building increased, with noticeable gains in foundational reading skills and cross-grade connections that excited both students and educators.

# Challenge

Lafourche Parish School District administrators were grappling with the limitations of their existing literacy curriculum. Teachers had more autonomy with the previous curriculum, which was not always aligned with the science of reading. As Alayne Joffrion, the district's elementary ELA curriculum specialist, noted, the curriculum lacked a knowledge-based approach, resulting in essential connections and deeper understanding often going undeveloped. This realization led Joffrion and the district's team to conclude that they had reached the limits of their progress with the current curriculum and instructional methods. They decided to seek a curriculum that was both structured and explicitly designed to enhance student knowledge-building and literacy skills.

# Solution

With the state of Louisiana supporting high-quality Tier 1 solutions, the district set its sights on Amplify, turning to the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) program to provide the structured sequence and explicit instruction they'd been missing. Key strategies employed by Lafourche Parish included investing in high-quality materials like CKLA and mCLASS, understanding the importance of involving teachers in the decision-making process, and focusing on fidelity of implementation while resisting the tendency to revert to past curricula.

To strengthen their approach, Lafourche Parish leaders engaged in foundational training as required by the state, ensuring that all K–3 teachers and administrators took the AIM Science of Reading course, which facilitated classroom connections to CKLA. Curriculum Specialist Alayne Joffrion and her colleagues emphasized the importance of early internalization work, led by her and the district's coaches, which established that educators understood the purpose behind the program. Joffrion said, "That was a turning point for many teachers. They seemed to have more trust and understanding in the design of the curriculum, and that's when we began to see instruction become more intentional, as teachers continued to develop and support the standards with the curriculum's intent in mind." Adherence to CKLA's pacing was maintained while allowing some flexibility, and comprehensive assessments in mCLASS were implemented at key intervals throughout the year.

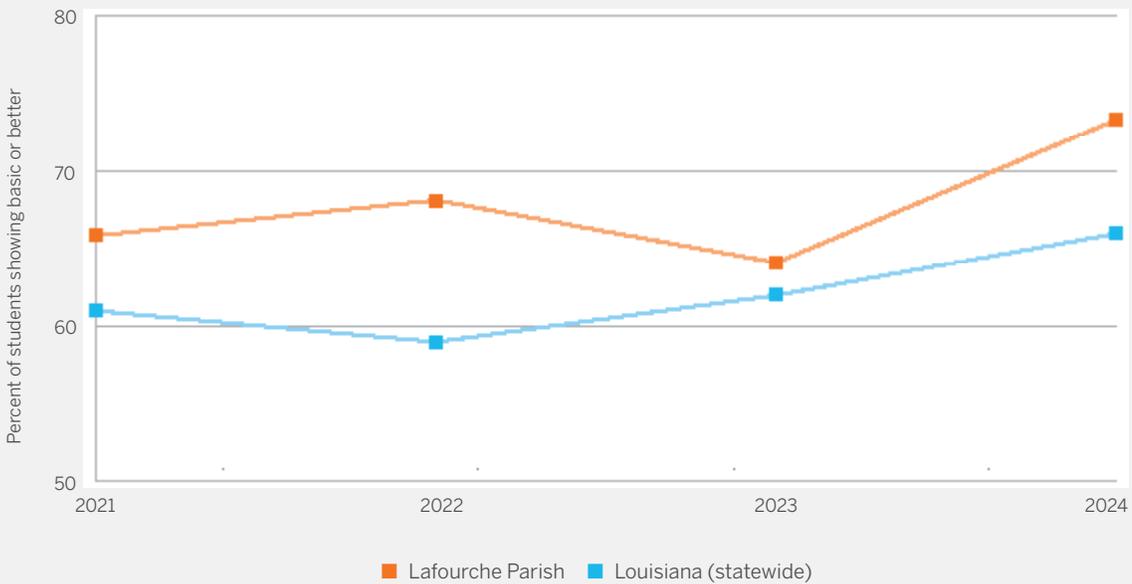
Lafourche Parish's success was also bolstered by support from its Amplify team. Joffrion expressed heartfelt appreciation for Wayne Hebert, Louisiana Senior Account Executive at Amplify. Megan Newsome was also lauded for her critical role, with Joffrion calling her a "lifesaver" during the transition to using Amplify products. She also acknowledged Shayana Lemon-Brookins' support and professionalism as a contributing factor to the district's implementation success.



# Impact

The implementation of Amplify’s CKLA and mCLASS resulted in substantial and tangible growth within Lafourche Parish. Students’ engagement with content grew, resulting in enthusiastic knowledge building across grade levels. “It is amazing how the students are able to make connections—across grade levels, even,” Joffrion said. “The kids get super excited. We absolutely are starting to see how the sequential and explicit approach to the phonics skills and the foundational skills in general are strengthening them as readers.”

Grade 3 LEAP scores since 2021, Lafourche Parish vs. statewide



# Conclusion

Lafourche Parish’s journey with Amplify reflects a remarkable transformation, showcasing how a commitment to structured, research-based literacy curricula and strategic implementation can lead to outstanding educational outcomes. The district’s dedication to improvement and its supportive relationship with Amplify set the stage for continued progress, providing inspiration and an example for other districts striving for similar success.

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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