



Barwell Road ELEMENTARY

Case Study

IMPLEMENTATION & RESULTS

AT-A-GLANCE

Location: Wake County, NC

Programs used since Fall 2021:

- *Reading Horizons Discovery*®
- *Reading Horizons Elevate*®
in third through fifth-grade classrooms

Where reading momentum begins



Background and Goals

In Spring 2021, Barwell Road Elementary School of Wake County, NC, a Title 1 school with 80 percent low-income and 30 percent English language learner (ELL) students, started searching for a new reading program to solve the following challenges:

Due to the pandemic, teachers reported significant gaps in their students' foundational skills, especially in phonics and fluency. Teachers noted that this gap was particularly troublesome for ELL students.

Teachers expressed a desire for in-depth knowledge of the science of reading and a curriculum that bridged K–5 instruction. .

Implementation

The *Reading Horizons Discovery*® and *Reading Horizons Elevate*® programs were implemented in third through fifth-grade classrooms. All third through fifth-grade certified elementary teachers, including support staff, received one day of in-person training before implementing the program at the start of the 2021–2022 school year. In-house instructional coaches also observed teachers monthly to provide additional coaching and feedback. Throughout the school year, Barwell's leadership team met with the Reading Horizons team to review successes and discuss the next steps for instruction.

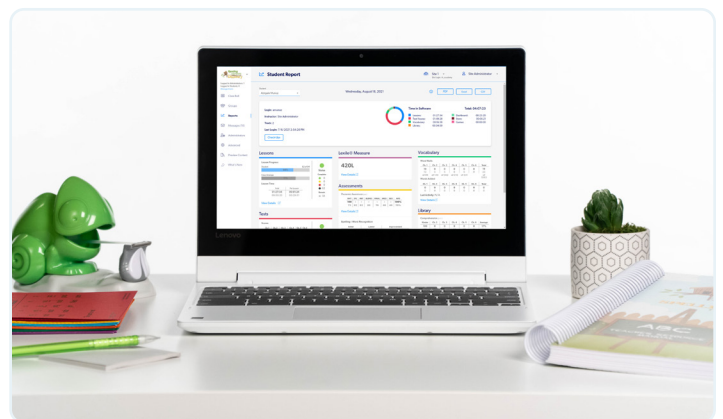
Throughout the year, teachers engaged in professional development sessions from Reading Horizons education specialists around the topics of Daily Core 4 instruction and instructional best practices. Teachers also participated in weekly PLC conversations about the implementation of RH Discovery and RH Elevate. Topics included pacing guidance, maximizing student software, instructional strengths, and challenges.

Believing that “literacy is a right, not a privilege” and recognizing that so many of their students needed additional literacy support, Barwell teachers implemented the programs as both a core curriculum and as an intervention resource. Of note, a daily 30-minute block was built into Barwell Road's master school schedule to ensure Reading Horizons lessons were taught with regularity and consistency.

Teachers reported it was an easy program to implement because the instructional guidance seamlessly deepened their knowledge about the science of reading in an explicit, systematic approach to phonics instruction.



Reading Horizons Discovery®
Grades 1–3 Teacher's Kits



Reading Horizons Discovery®
Online Software

“The Reading Horizons curriculum puts consistent implementation at the forefront of our instructional practice. It is easy for a teacher to grab on to, yet flexible enough so you can personalize it for your students.

— DANA MCDONALD, BARWELL ROAD LITERACY COACH



Results

An analysis of the North Carolina End-of-Grade (EOG) scores for third grade revealed significant improvement. SY21–22 resulted in the highest scores for third grade in over five years and placed Barwell Road on par with the school district’s average growth!

Grades 3–5 each exceeded their percentage growth on the End-of-Grade results from SY20–21, further indicating promising growth is on the horizon (Visual 1).

VISUAL 1

Grade	2021 EOG Proficiency Percentages	2022 EOG Proficiency Percentages
3	N/A	60%
4	21%	30%
5	15%	24%

Next Steps

Barwell Road plans to continue with the Reading Horizons program for the 2022–2023 school year. They will have training for their new teachers and coaching sessions with a Reading Horizons Certified Trainer. After meeting with their RH Implementation Coach, they focused on support for differentiated small-group instruction and student transfer. Barwell Road believes this training model will help teachers continue to learn the program and benefit from ongoing professional learning from Reading Horizons trainers.

“

I can’t stop celebrating one of our fourth-grade students. At the beginning of the year, he was reading at a first-grade level. With Reading Horizons, he was able to master the code and was reading at a third-grade level by summertime. It was amazing to see his confidence soar!

– DANA MCDONALD, BARWELL ROAD LITERACY COACH

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