DISTRICT INFORMATION



Name:

Sangaree Elementary

Location:

Summerville, South Carolina

Grades:

PreK-2

SUCCESS STORY

Sangaree Elementary Provides Equity in Reading Instruction with Direct Instruction

Overview

Sangaree Elementary is a Title 1 school located in Berkeley County—the third fastest-growing county in South Carolina and home to branches of several major companies, including Google, Volvo, BMW, and Boeing. Employees come from all over the world to work in the county, directly contributing to the diverse student population in its district's schools, including Sangaree Elementary.

Sangaree Elementary students come from a wide range of backgrounds with varying language skills, so it is critical for school leaders to support instructional equity across all grades. Sangaree Elementary does this by using Direct Instruction (DI) programs *Language for Learning®* and *Reading Mastery®* to help ensure strong reading skills and social and emotional learning for its PreK–2 students.

Implementation

Sangaree Elementary is unique in that it only serves students up to second grade. Starting in third grade, students are moved to Sangaree Intermediate (grades 3–5), which shares the same campus. This arrangement provides an opportunity for teachers to really focus on certain age groups of students, but in years past, Sangaree Elementary struggled with its reading scores.



DI time, referred to as STAR (Students and Teachers Are Reading) time, occurred for the first 45 minutes of the day, five days a week.

Sangaree Elementary students beganrefeTISow

"Language for Learning is awesome for English language learners, and also for those with a low vocabulary who can't answer basic who, what, where, when, and why questions," Denholm said. "This program gives them the vocabulary to answer questions about the stories they read."

Dillard said, as an instructional coach, she has seen the mindset of teachers change from

About Language for Learning

Language for Learning is a comprehensive oral language program that teaches essential concepts and skills to beginning ELL and elementary students, so they can learn the words, concepts, and statements important to both speaking and writing the English language. The program provides carefully sequenced lessons to help students learn vocabulary commonly used by teachers and in instructional