

# INDEPENDENT IMPACT STUDY

## Special Education Kindergarteners at Oxford Elementary (AL) Make Significant Gains in Key Reading Skills

### Implementation Objectives

Oxford Elementary School in Oxford, Alabama, needed a reading intervention program that would address the needs of its special education students. To ensure these students were provided with intensive instruction they needed, Oxford Elementary implemented the Voyager Passport™ program.

In order to improve student reading skills and performance, the partnership between Voyager and Oxford Elementary emphasized:

- A strategy to ensure special education students acquire key reading skills
- Built-in progress monitoring and assessment
- Comprehensive launch training with all teachers
- A Literacy Implementation Specialist to oversee the implementation
- Integrated, ongoing professional development
- Ongoing implementation support including site visits, web site, email, and phone support

### Methodology

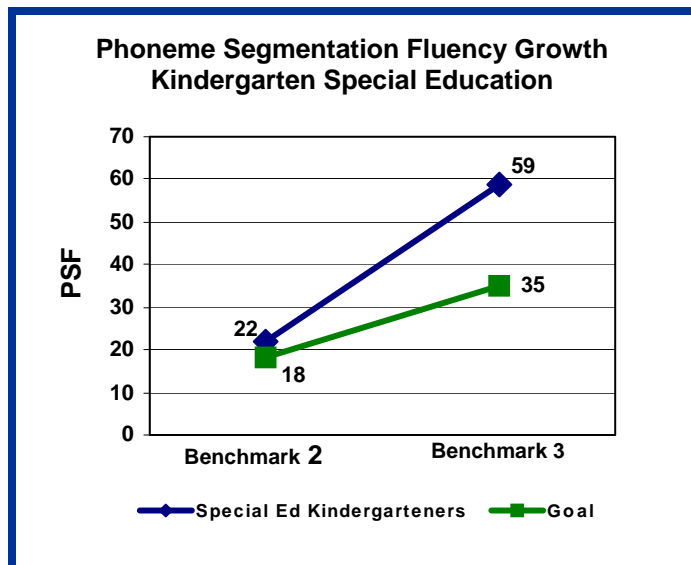
Using DIBELS™ Phoneme Segmentation Fluency (PSF) measure, the growth of kindergarten special education students was measured from the middle of the school year (benchmark 2) to the end (benchmark 3), and compared to the goal for kindergarten students performing at grade level. Benchmark 2 is the first time DIBELS measures kindergarten PSF skills.

### Findings

Students achieved an average score of 22 on their PSF DIBELS assessment at benchmark 2 after refining other key prerequisite reading skills during the first 13 weeks in Voyager Passport. This is slightly above the expected level for kindergarten students performing at grade level.

After the next 13 weeks in Voyager Passport, students significantly increased their PSF scores to an average of 59, far surpassing the goal for kindergarten students performing at grade level.

Oxford Elementary is in its second year of a K-6 implementation of Voyager Passport.



## PROFILE

**School Year:** 2004-2005

**Location:** Oxford, Alabama

**School:** Oxford Elementary

**District:** Oxford City Schools

**Grade Level:** Kindergarten

**Number of Students:** 12

**Voyager Program:** Voyager Passport™

**Assessment Tool:** DIBELS™

(Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills)

### Demographic Data:

75% Caucasian

19% African American

5% Hispanic

1% Asian

41% of students eligible for free or reduced lunch

## KEY FINDINGS

After 26 weeks in Voyager Passport, special education kindergarten students:

- Significantly increased their PSF scores from an average of 22 mid-year to 59 at the end of the year.
- Finished the year considerably above the expected PSF level for kindergarten students performing at grade level.

**“The Voyager Passport program is the most comprehensive program I have ever seen. I have seen tremendous growth in all of my students.”**

– Kim Wagner, Special Education Teacher, Oxford Elementary

