

# INDEPENDENT IMPACT STUDY

## Special-Education Second-Graders at Oxford Elementary (AL) Make Significant Fluency Gains

### Implementation Objectives

Oxford Elementary School in Oxford, Alabama, needed an intensive 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

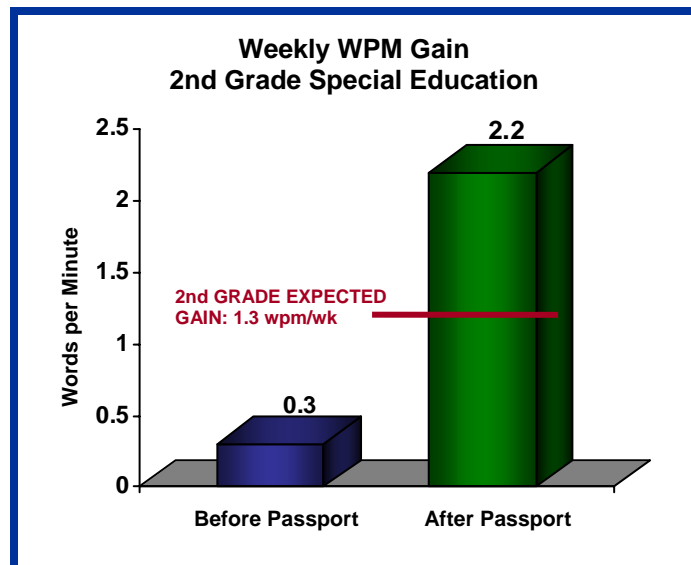
Using DIBELS™ Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) measure, the weekly reading fluency growth of second grade special education students was measured before and after Voyager Passport, and compared to the expected weekly fluency gain for second grade students.

### Findings

Before Voyager Passport, the average weekly fluency growth of special education second graders at Oxford Elementary was 0.3 words per minute, less than half the expected gain for a second grade student performing at grade level.

After Voyager Passport, students more than tripled their weekly fluency growth to 2.2 words per minute per week, almost *twice* the expected gain of a second grade student 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:** 2nd Grade

**Number of Students:** 13

**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

- Special education second-graders tripled their reading fluency growth to 2.2 wpm/wk after 26 weeks in Voyager Passport.
- This is nearly twice the expected gain for second grade 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

