Cottageville Elementary School

District: Cottageville Elementary School, Colleton County
Location: Cottageville, SC
Enrollment: Nearly 6,000

OVERVIEW

Cottageville Elementary is one of 11 schools in the Colleton County School District based in Walterboro, SC. The district's mission is to ensure that all students meet or exceed state standards in preparation to become productive citizens. The Colleton County School District received AdvancEd Accreditation in 2013, meaning the district and all of its schools are accredited, with Colleton County School District recognized nationally and internationally as a quality school system.

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Karen Lockerman, Special Education Teacher
Cottageville Elementary School special education teacher Karen Lockerman knows a thing or two about challenges. She teaches a bustling classroom of struggling readers who all want her undivided attention.

“What I’ve learned,” says Lockerman, “is that a lot of the students need one-on-one attention.”

In order to give her students the kind of attention they needed, Lockerman explored her options and tried different digital programs to enhance her reading curriculum. Lockerman says programs fell short of engaging her students until she discovered SRA FLEX Literacy™, from McGraw-Hill Education.

She immediately agreed to participate in the pilot program. “I was excited to find a program that’s almost like a game—most of them play on the computer—and that’s how I found FLEX,” explains Lockerman. “It’s like me sitting in front of them with flash cards or one-on-one. We actually have 10-on-1, but SRA FLEX Literacy lets me give them individual attention as they need it.”

Lockerman’s willingness has paid off for her current class of third-grade students. “Last year, every one of my 15 students started the year as a beginning reader, and by year’s end, only one remained at the same level—and that student was absent 50 percent of the school year. Every other student achieved a Lexile range of 130-320 by the end of the year—that was tremendous growth,” she says.

“I don’t have any of them who are ready to go into a regular class yet, but we might because they’re improving so quickly. What I like about FLEX is that I can see their progress and pull them over if they need individual attention.”

Lockerman’s students are as excited as she is about SRA FLEX Literacy.

“The kids like playing the games and how the screens change—they think they’ve mastered a level,” laughs Lockerman. “I can’t let them sit together because they start to get jealous of each other. They think of it as a game, rather than actual learning; and they love the microphone.”

In fact, parents within the district are equally enthusiastic and are already asking for FLEX at the middle school level. Since SRA FLEX Literacy is designed to augment, rather than replace, a school’s current curriculum, the program can be adapted as the teacher sees fit.

Now in its second year at Cottageville Elementary, SRA FLEX Literacy is an integral part of the special education curriculum that Lockerman would like to expand upon. “I’m planning to apply for a grant so we can use FLEX throughout our school. For our current third-grade group, I’d love to see what kind of progress they can make if they were to use SRA FLEX Literacy all the way through fifth grade.”

SRA FLEX Literacy is a powerful, flexible, data-driven intervention system for Grades 3+ that combines the best of computer-based and teacher-led instruction with collaborative learning to prepare students for college and career.

- Powerful Instruction
- Flexible Implementation
- Data-Driven Learning