

The Solutions that Drove Student Growth



THE CHALLENGE

Laurens County School District 55 (or Laurens 55), a rural district made up of nine Title 1 schools in South Carolina faced a challenge: With many students below-grade level, district leaders needed a curriculum that spanned grades and helped all students reach their potential. “We had to change the things in our practice so we could make sure that our kids are achieving as they should,” stated Farrell Thomas, principal of Gray Court-Owings Elementary and Middle School.

THE SOLUTION

Laurens 55 partnered with HMH to implement its curriculum, supplemental, and assessment solutions. “We needed a curriculum that supports the science of reading and our standards,” said Kim Penland, principal of Waterloo Elementary School. “HMH has done that for us.”

Laurens County School District 55

LOCATION

Laurens, SC

SETTING

Rural

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

5,000+

DEMOGRAPHICS

67% White
 24% Black
 5% Hispanic
 3% Other

HMH CURRICULA:

HMH Into Reading[®]
 HMH Into Literature[®]
 Into Math[®]
 Math 180[®]
 Read 180[®]
 HMH Into Science[®]
 HMH Science Dimensions[®]
 Amira Learning[®]
 Waggle[®]

FINDING THE RIGHT CURRICULUM

The superintendent of Laurens 55, Dr. Ameca Thomas, set out to find a solution that would set students on a new trajectory. The stakes were high for this Title 1 district because so many students needed support. District leaders wanted a cohesive curriculum that provided high-quality resources, aligned to state standards and the science of reading, and, most importantly, made student data readily available and easy to use. Dr. Amanda Patterson, senior director of academic planning at HMH, met with the district leadership and examined student data, along with what programs and assessments the district was currently using; she worked to help the district identify gaps in its instructional systems (i.e., curriculum and instructional practice). From this meeting, Laurens 55's journey toward academic success began.

USING DATA TO DRIVE INSTRUCTION

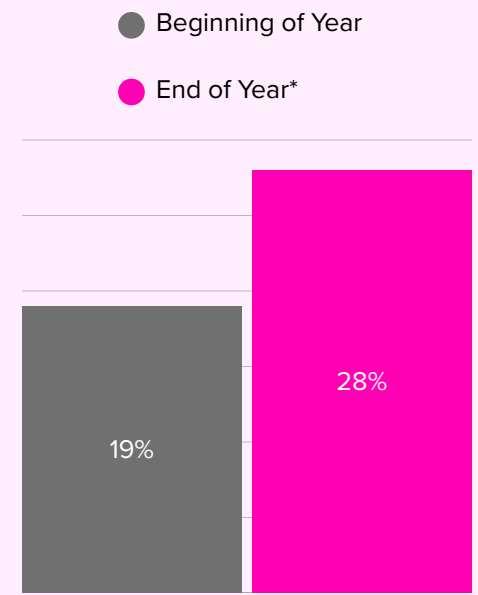
Today, *Laurens 55's* educators make it a priority to use assessment data to drive instruction. They work in tandem with instructional coaches, who help ensure educators regularly check student data. "Knowing that you have that data in front of you supports what you're seeing and validates where our kids need to be and what we need to do to help them," said Dr. Kristi Tucker, instructional coach. Superintendent Thomas attributes ongoing professional learning to the district's success.

We needed a curriculum that supports the science of reading and our standards, and HMH has done that for us."

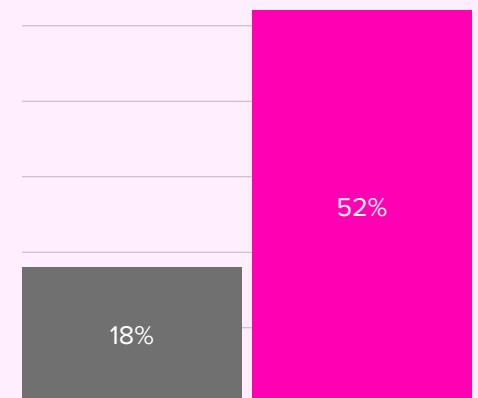
**–Kim P.
Principal**

Literacy Growth 2022–23

Laurens County School District 55



Waterloo Elementary School



*Students on and above level
HMH Benchmark Assessment Results,
2023

GAINING STUDENT GROWTH

The results in literacy exceeded educators' expectations district-wide. Looking across the 2022–23 school year, students in the district who scored on level or above in reading grew from 19% to 28%. Waterloo Elementary School, in particular, experienced tremendous literacy growth in 2022–23, with the percentage of students reading at grade level or even higher increasing from 18% to 52%.



The partnership [with HMH] is just phenomenal. We're always able to reach out and call to get answers to questions or support, resources, or training. It's been a remarkable experience."

**—Dr. Ameca T.
Superintendent**

Laurens 55 adopted the following programs: *HMH Into Reading, HMH Into Literature, Into Math, Math 180, Read 180, HMH Into Science, HMH Science Dimensions, Amira, and Waggle.*

There's more to Laurens 55's story. Hear firsthand from educators and students in the district.

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