



PLATINUM PERFORMERS

Leaders in Implementation. Outstanding Results.

Madison Middle School Madison County School District, Mississippi

Challenge:

Despite a record of strong overall academic performance at Madison Middle School (MMS), 7% of students scored below proficient on the Mississippi Curriculum Test.

Madison Middle School serves 1,300 students in Grades 6 through 8. Historically a high-performing school, administrators were unwilling to ignore even a small population of struggling students. Each year approximately 30 to 45 students enter Madison Middle School reading two or more years below grade level. This group includes students across the educational spectrum including



Madison Middle School was struggling to meet the needs of students scoring below proficient on the state tests. The district Special Education Director and the Madison Middle School Principal set out to find a program that would provide these struggling students the skills needed for success.

**21% African American
11% Economically Disadvantaged**

Solution:

After implementing READ 180, 60% of targeted students showed positive growth on state tests, and MMS was ranked the highest rated school in Mississippi.

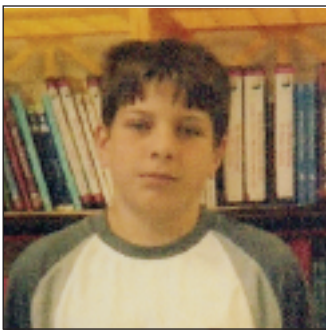
General Education, English language learners, and Special/ Exceptional Education. Recognizing that improved reading skills were the key to success in high school and beyond, the district Special Education Director and Madison Middle School Principal set out to find a program that would provide struggling students with the skills needed for success today and well into the future. 🐼

What is READ 180? READ 180 is a research-based intervention program for struggling readers in Grades 4 and above. By combining small-group learning, adaptive software, independent reading, and direct teacher instruction, READ 180 provides a comprehensive solution that helps students become automatic, fluent readers. READ 180 meets the guidelines for *No Child Left Behind* and is now in use in over 10,000 classrooms across the country.

***READ 180* helps Madison Middle School become the top school in Mississippi.**

Engaging All Modalities

Approximately 7% of students at Madison Middle School score below “proficient” on the Mississippi Curriculum Test (MCT), which means they are reading a year or more below grade level. Of those, about half are reading two or more years below grade level.



“READ 180 has helped me to read a lot faster. It has also helped me with my homework and school-work.”

—Damian
Grade 6

After researching several different programs to address the needs of these lowest-performing students, the team at Madison Middle School chose to implement *READ 180* for students reading two or more years below grade level. All the students enrolled in *READ 180* are reading at or below the 4th grade level. Teacher Dianne Howard says she believes the program works particularly well with these students because it engages all modalities.

“*READ 180* is auditory, visual, and kinesthetic,” explains Howard. “When you are working with these kinds of learners, you use all modalities.” She also lauds the self-paced nature of *READ 180* and the fact that the program hits all the main objectives of a reading curriculum such as the use of context clues, main idea, cause and effect, and compare and contrast. In addition, Howard says the visual discrimination and spelling practice in *READ 180* are critical for her students, who struggle a great deal with spelling.

“With *READ 180* there is a realization of what students today are like. The teaching has to be different and address the students’ needs. The program is built for student success and boosts student confidence,” says Lynn Slay, Special Education Director for Madison County School District.

Challenge Without Frustration

Howard says that her students are, “without a doubt,” some of the most challenging kids in the school. “They bring with them the frustrations that have built up over the years,” explains Howard.

“What’s great about *READ 180*,” she continues, “is that it gives students an opportunity to work at levels that are challenging, but not frustrating, which is encouraging for them, and ultimately promotes better attitudes toward reading.”

At the beginning of each school year, Howard tells her students they will be visiting an elementary school and reading to second graders in the spring. “A few always tell me they will *not* go because the second graders read better than they do. But in the spring, I stand aside and watch them read with fluency and emotion.”

At the Top and Still Showing Growth

Mississippi schools are identified by one of five achievement levels based on performance on standardized tests, with a score of 5 being the highest level. Madison had scored at the top of that scale in the 2004–2005 school year and had been informed by experts within the Mississippi Department of Education that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to show the growth necessary to maintain that score. Madison, however, received an unprecedented second “5” again in 2006.

“The improvement of our lowest readers is one reason for our continued success,” says Howard. She points to MCT results as verification. According to the test, 60% of *READ 180* students showed the necessary growth to meet the requirements for Adequate Yearly Progress. 24% of the students in *READ 180* were classified as Special Education. All of these students made the required yearly gains on the MCT.

100% of
students in Special Education
who received *READ 180*
made required yearly gains.

Top School in the State

In 2006, the Mississippi Department of Education introduced the Achievement Level Index (ALI), which defines how well a school’s students are performing on the state tests. An ALI number is calculated based on a variety of components including the Growth Model and the Achievement Model, and will range from 100 at the bottom of the scale to 600 at the top. Madison was the *only school in the state* to score 600.

“*READ 180* is a significant part of our overall reading strategy,” says Principal Ron Morrison. “And I believe it has helped us become the number-one-ranked school in our state and maintain our top rating for two consecutive years.”



Dianne Howard
READ 180 Classroom Teacher
Madison Middle School

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**Dianne Howard is happy to share her *READ 180* experiences.
You can reach her at dhoward@madison-schools.com**



It Can Be Done.

60%

of targeted students showed growth
on the MCT from the prior year.

To find out how to get results like these in *your* school,
visit www.scholastic.com/read180 or call your regional Scholastic representative.

Northeast Region

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PLATINUM PERFORMERS: THE CRITERIA

- ✓Quantifiable Results
- ✓Visionary Goal
- ✓On-Model Scheduling
- ✓On-Model Implementation
- ✓Principal, Teacher, and Student Satisfaction

For a complete list of criteria, or to nominate your school as a PLATINUM PERFORMER,
go to www.scholastic.com/read180