



**Brevard Public Schools**

**“A Diamond in  
the Rough”**



## Day 1

- What is a Reading coach and why am I here? What is Reading First?
- Summer Reading Academy?
- Coaches Academy, Tallahassee



- Home to Kennedy Space Center
- Highly skilled professionals prepare vehicles and men/women for space
- Technologically-oriented businesses
- K-12 education system 70,000+ students



## Heart of Brevard County

- Historically one of the earlier settlements
- Census tract 626
- Crime, substance and child abuse
- Unemployment
- Median family income of \$11,000 annually
- Designated “Weed & Seed”
- Two R/F schools in this area
- Other R/F schools located in north/south parts of the county.



## Brevard Reading First 2003-04

- Nine Title One Schools-Scott Foresman
- Three Charter Schools-
  - Explorer Charter- SRA Open Court
  - River's Edge- Houghton Mifflin
  - Odyssey Charter-Montessori Program  
(Opted out after year one)



## The Coal in the Stocking December Surprise

- Eligibility
- Reading First for two years
- Goal:
  1. Increase the % of K-3 students reading at grade level
  2. Reduce the % of students with serious reading difficulties from the previous year



## The Coal in the Stocking YYGL

- YYGL-year to year change in % of students at grade level.
- Increase students in grades 1 and 2 above the 40% on the SAT 10.
- Grade 3 performance at level 3 or above on the FCAT.



## Unique Diamonds

- Identified using the same rubric
- Different brilliancy
- Characteristics
- Each set on the same prong



## Packaging the Diamonds for shipping

- Make sure all diamonds are handled with care
- Packaged them separately because they each offer something different to the customer
- Be prepared to change the setting if the customer isn't satisfied.



Putting It All Together

**Focus, Non-focus, Charter,  
District**

# Reading First at Explorer Charter



- **Positives**

- Reading Coach
- Assessment
- Use of PMRN
- Data
- Full Inclusion with District

- **Challenges**

- Open Court Reading Program
- Part Time Reading Coach
- Data
- Interpretation of Data



## Explorer as a charter

- **Positives**
  - Alternative learning environment
  - Small, personalized classrooms
- **Challenges**
  - Fluctuating enrollment
  - Responsibility of scores for student no longer at school



# Explorer Charter Pre Kindergarten – Eighth Grade

- **Positives**
  - Small class size
  - Intimate learning environment
- **Challenges**
  - Only one class per grade
  - Struggles with 90 min. block



# Open Court Reading Program

- **Positives**
  - School Progress
  - Scripted well
  - Fabulous Five
  - A status 3 years
  - AYP status 1 year
- **Challenges**
  - Only school In District using Reading First



# SRA Corrective Reading Program

- **Positives**

- Above and beyond 90 min. block
- Small group
- Individualized pace
- Progress monitoring bi-weekly

- **Challenges**

- Learning groups based on SAT 10 and FCAT scores
- Not Considered above and beyond for iii students



# Explorer's ESE Population

- **Positives**

- Fully included
- Pull-out support

- **Challenges**

- ESE is 25% of school population
- All scores are included in Reading First Outcome measures

# Explorer as a Focus School



- **Positives**

- Closer look at the Data
- Additional support for the school

- **Challenges**

- Moral
- Issues with the Data



# Explorer's Future with Reading First

- Interpretation of the Data
- Enthusiasm of teachers
- Communication between Coach and Administration
- Stronger understanding of the program and goals for my school

# Explorer's Big Picture

**Explorer  
is a  
Diamond**





# Focus Schools

Schools that are not making  
adequate progress according to  
Reading First criteria become  
Reading First Focus Schools



# Criteria

- Comparison from Year 1 to Year 2 of implementation of the Reading First Grant
  - Year to year change in % of students at grade level (YYGL)
  - Year to year change in % of students at high risk (YYHR)
- Outcome Measures
  - SAT 10 (grades 1 and 2)
  - FCAT (grade 3)

# Contributing Factors

- Student Mobility
- Teacher Mobility
- Teacher Experience
- Quality Instruction
- Role of the Reading Coach
- Administrative Mobility
- Administrative Support



# Requirements



- Develop a School Level Instructional Action Plan
- Just Read, Florida Reading First Leadership Conference
- Just Read, Florida Summer Academy
- Program Specific Reading Program Training for Administration and Coaches (ERRFTAC)
- On-going progress monitoring (OPM)
- Analysis of DIBELS data after each assessment
- Consistent and on-going support from Just Read, Florida and Reading First District Level personnel

# Year long plan that includes:

- Focus on Quality Instruction
- Implementing a consistent iii block outside of the 90 block
- On-Going Progress Monitoring
- Professional Development
- Data Analysis
- Accountability





## Non-Focus School

### How Did We Get There?

- Started as a Literacy First School before Reading First with a CSRD grant
- Year 1 – Intensive professional development for K-3 teachers
- Year 2 & 3 - Intensive professional development for K-6 teachers
- Year 4 & 5 – Focus on Vocabulary K-6



# What Kept Us There?

- Pre and Post Literacy Assessments
- Individual Student Phonics Continuum
- Word Walls in every classroom K-6
- Additional Vocabulary Training
- Meaningful Learning Centers in place K-6
- Reading Coach trained
- Teacher Buy In



## How Do We Stay A Focus School?

- Effective Reading Coach
- Focus on Fluency and Vocabulary school wide
- Provide LR students with challenges
- Continue monitoring the data
- Keep a positive attitude



# Putting It All Together