



Early Literacy Academy Update

**Fairfield Public Schools
Board of Education Presentation
January 11, 2022 (Revised)**

Program Focus



In collaboration with Literacy How and Dr. Margie Gillis, the Fairfield Public Schools has developed the Early Literacy Academy at McKinley School to meet the literacy needs of our most impaired elementary students with significant reading disabilities within the Fairfield Public Schools



Current Student Demographic

There are currently 7 students enrolled in the Early Literacy Academy for the 2021-2022 school year:

- **Five grade 3 students**
 - **Two grade 2 students**
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2021-22 Cost Comparison of Early Literacy Academy to Outplaced Tuition

	Early Literacy Academy Costs	Outplaced Average Tuition Cost (10 months)
Staffing Cost (1 special Ed teacher & 2 literacy paras)	\$199,281	
Transportation Cost	\$0	\$254.80 per day X 180 days = \$45,864
Tuition Cost per Student (7 students)	\$26,269	\$62,925 x 7 = \$440,475
Total Annual Cost for 7 Students	\$199,281	\$486,339
<i>Class Size</i>	<i>7 maximum</i>	<i>4-6 average</i>



Additional Early Literacy Program Costs

\$76,000

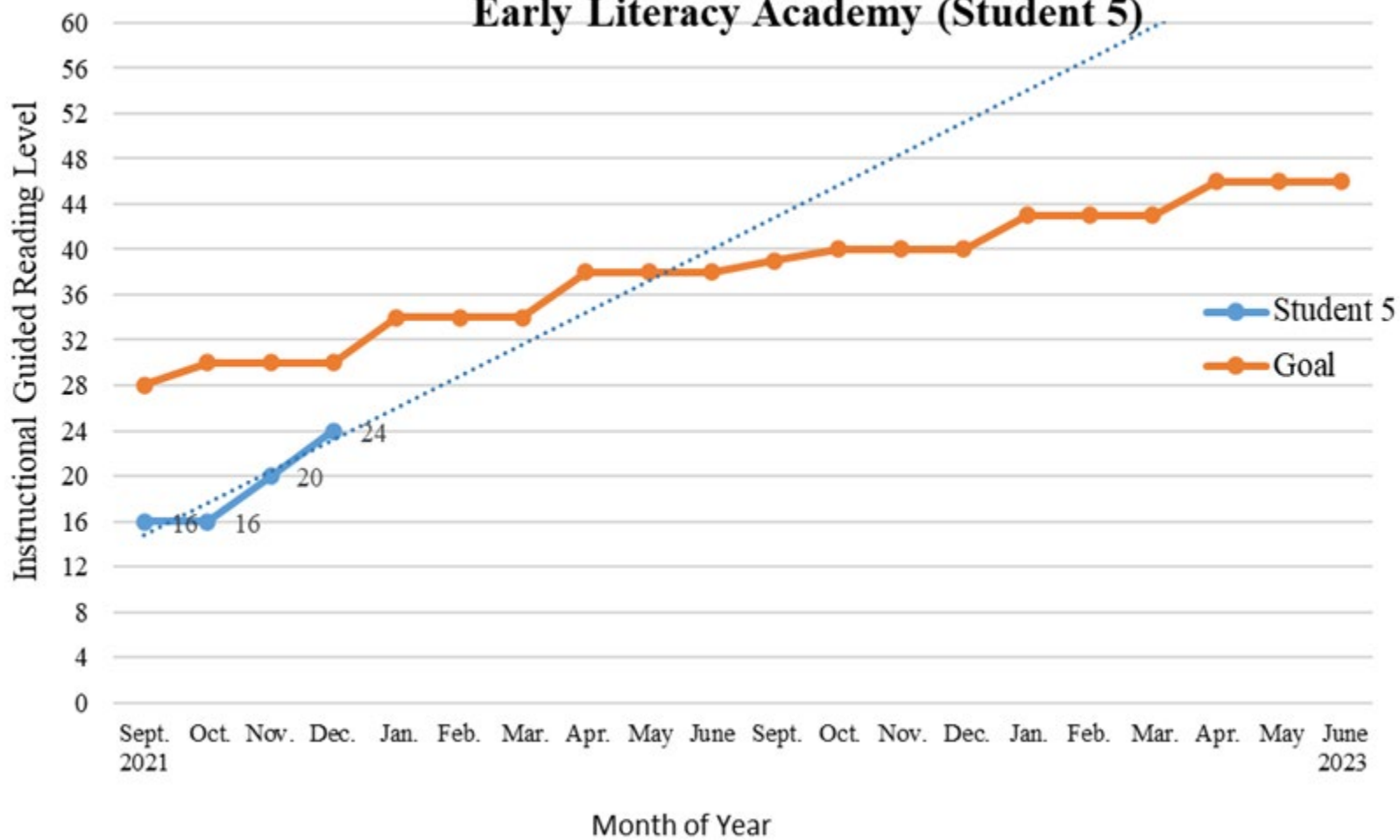
This includes

- **A Literacy Coach from Literacy How one day per week to support special education and general education staff working with students enrolled in the Early Literacy Academy across all settings (\$36,000) AND**
 - **Intensive Professional development for two cohorts of general education and special education staff in The Principles of Structured Literacy (\$20,000 each cohort)**
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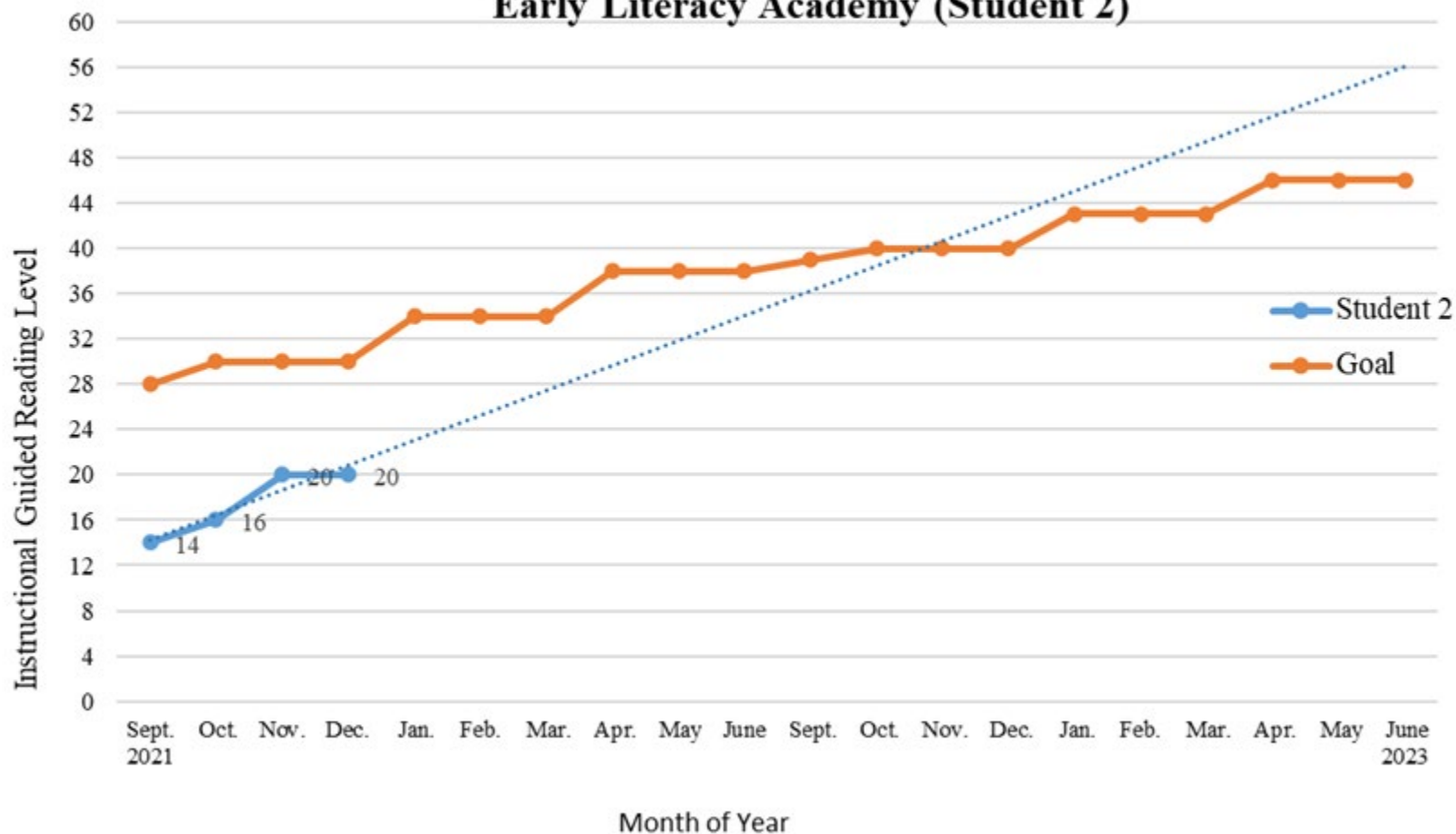


Sample Progress Monitoring Data

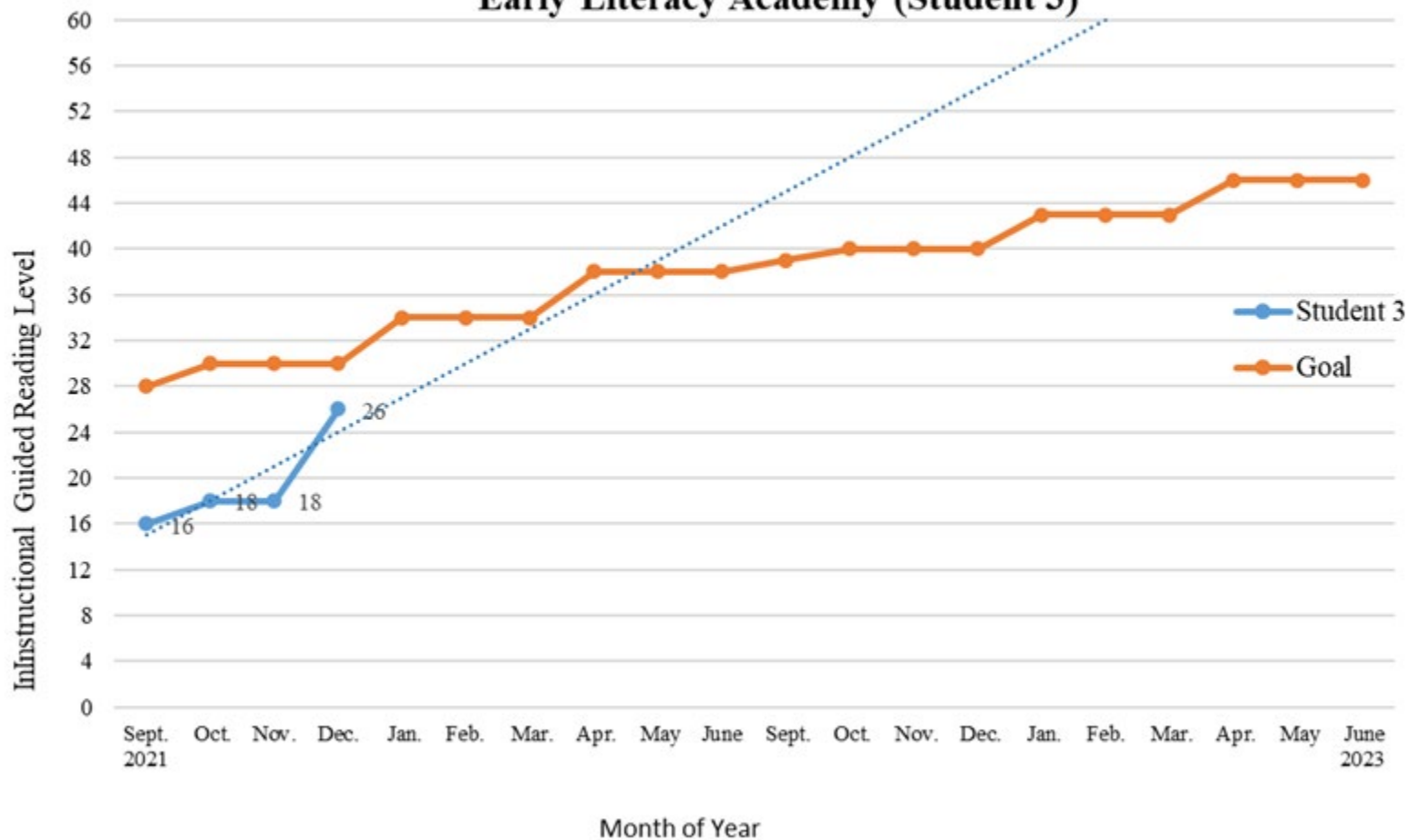
Instructional Reading Level Early Literacy Academy (Student 5)



Instructional Reading Level Early Literacy Academy (Student 2)



Instructional Reading Level Early Literacy Academy (Student 3)



Interpretation of Student Data

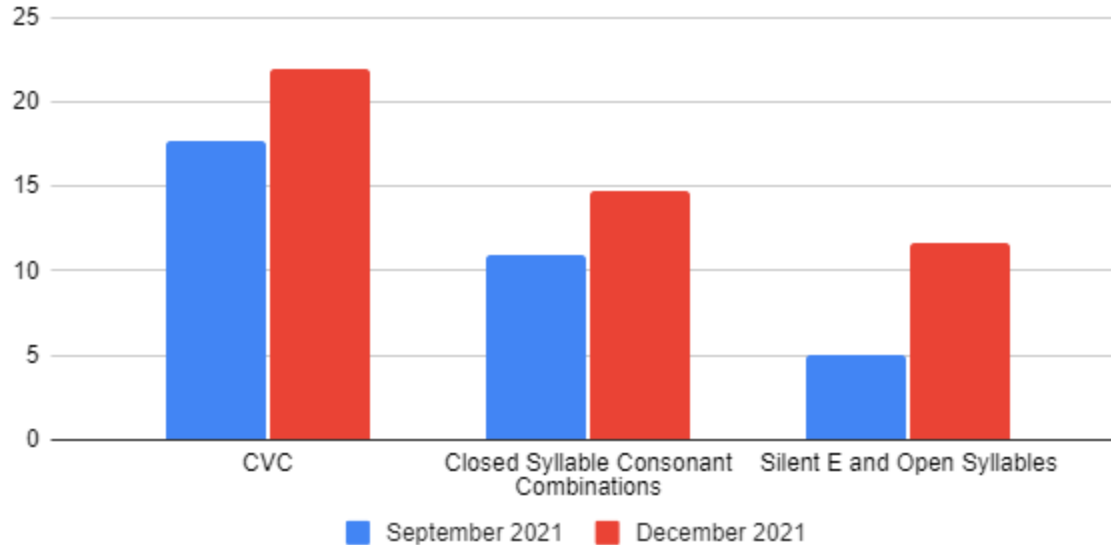


McKinley's Early Literacy Academy participants have demonstrated growth in overall reading ability. Source of data is FPS utilized curriculum based measure (*Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System*).

Student performance (blue) is trending towards closure of the achievement gap within 1.5 to 2 years, given continued intensive instruction utilizing the structured literacy approach.

Gallistel-Ellis Test of Coding Skills: Reading Subtests

Average Raw Score on Subtest



Each of the six students demonstrated improvement in their ability to read words in the three different phonic patterns assessed. The most notable improvement occurred with the recent introduction and practice reading Silent E and Open Syllables.

As we continue to apply the structured literacy approach to the intensive instruction the students are receiving, we expect to see further growth in these phonic patterns and others as we help students develop their reading skills and progress monitor their performance.

Early Literacy Academy Coach



Training of teachers includes:

- Support and coaching as teachers implement the elements and principles of Structured Literacy with students
 - Providing special education teachers with effective intervention methods, and understanding of the known causal relationship among major components of literacy, how the relationship among these components might change over time and knowledge necessary to set reasonable goals and expectations for students who are at different points in reading and writing development
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Early Literacy Academy Coach Continued



Training of teachers also includes:

- Support in implementing and interpreting effective methods of assessment to identify the most critical instructional needs of students who are at different points of reading and writing development
 - Support setting realistic standards for what special educators need to know in order to support and deliver intensive reading instruction
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Structured Literacy Course Sequence



Ongoing professional development for a cohort of general education and special education teachers is being provided by Literacy How staff to those working with students participating in the Early Literacy Academy along with other staff.

Elementary Principals are also receiving professional learning in The Principles of Structured Literacy with Dr. Gillis during the current school year.

Structured Literacy Course Sequence

Continued



Structured Literacy Course Sequence:

- **Understanding and Assessing SLD/Dyslexia: The Role of Phonology in Reading**
- **The Alphabetic Principle and Phonics: Building on the Foundation of Phonemic Awareness**
- **Advanced Phonics and Morphology Instruction: Linking Sounds, Symbols, and Meaning**
- **Grammar and Syntax: The Building Blocks for Comprehending and Writing Sentences**
- **Semantics: Strengthening Vocabulary and Comprehension**

Early Literacy Academy Team Members



Teresa Gingrave, Principal McKinley School

Erica Mueller, Special Education Teacher

Two Literacy Paraprofessionals

Allison Ibanez Literacy How Coach (one day per week)

**Wendy North, Literacy How Structured Literacy Course
Instructor**

**Dr. Margie Gillis, Literacy How Program Consultant /
Instructor**

Zoe Dolan, Coordinator of Elementary Special Education



Questions & Comments
