Case study

Challenge

After a year of uncertainty in the classroom due to COVID-19 virtual learning constraints, San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) wanted to welcome back families and students in their K-3rd grade classes to in-person instruction.

Solution

As a longtime Springboard partner, SFUSD continued to work with Springboard for several reasons. One is our development of children as readers by replacing unfinished learning with significant and sustained reading gains. Our students complete programming with better reading habits and increased literacy skills, while our families feel more equipped with the tools they need to support their child’s literacy development.

Second is our commitment toward building capacity for teachers and staff by providing them with pre-program professional development. Springboard Collaborative believes that student reading growth is only possible with teacher growth and reflection. We guide teachers step by step through our Family Educator Learning Accelerator (FELA) methodology, which encourages teachers and families to team up to help students reach learning goals. We also develop the leadership pipeline by supporting teacher-leaders through a management training program.

Upon consultation with the Springboard team, SFUSD chose our 5-week flagship summer offering which includes daily literacy instruction for students, weekly workshops training parents to teach reading at home, a rigorous coaching cycle for teachers, and an incentive structure that awards learning tools to families proportional to student reading gains.

The program kicks off with teachers leading a virtual or in-person team-building huddle with each individual family to build buy-in and lay the foundation for a strong relationship. This also helps teachers lead weekly family workshops, where students and families learn alongside one another, providing the skills and resources necessary for families to support reading at home.

Participating students see their learning accelerated because they are both receiving direct literacy instruction from their teacher while also receiving reading coaching support from their families. Furthermore, families become more equipped with the tools they need to support their child’s literacy development. Springboard’s program team also conducts pre-program professional development to ensure teachers and leaders are set up for success.

These competencies form the basis for a sustainable partnership in which teachers share instructional strategies with parents in exchange for the commitment that families will practice these strategies at home. This creates enormous leverage: For every hour that a teacher leads a family workshop, families deliver ~25 hours of tutoring at home.

-Mia, a Springboard SFUSD teacher
Planning

As part of our flagship summer offering, Springboard managed the majority of planning and implementation. During this time student enrollment campaigns were planned and program materials were also translated into Spanish and Chinese to be inclusive of SFUSD’s multilingual family population.

Implementation

During implementation, teachers were given the opportunity to participate in Springboard’s professional development, with an emphasis on family engagement and assessment training. Once programming started, SFUSD students received instructional time from 8:30 am-12:30 pm five days a week. Our curriculum centered on Reading Readiness and phonics, writing, small group instruction, read alouds, and shared reading. Family workshops, which allow families to learn and practice reading tips in real time with their child, took place on Tuesdays virtually, with make-up sessions on Wednesdays or Thursdays. Through these workshops, families learned how to read with their child purposefully and ask questions to support their child before, during, and after reading. The workshops also served as a time for educators and families to easily check in about reading goals and student progress.

Results

Students who participated in the program achieved 3.3 months of reading growth in just five weeks. In addition, students averaged 80% in-person attendance throughout the program, and one of SFUSD's family workshops earned a 90% attendance rate (our highest attended virtual family workshop ever in our partnership with SFUSD!). Here’s what the SFUSD school community had to say:

“The one-on-one support with scholars, collaboration with families, and amazing teamwork with Springboard Collaborative (Site Support as SF Springboard Team) has been an enriching experience, and I am proud to be a part of these scholars’ reading journey.”
-Mia, Springboard teacher

“Thank you for everything you have done this summer helping to inspire him to read. It has been great to watch his confidence and desire to read grow. The program has helped to create a rhythm in our household to read daily.”
-Yarrow, Springboard family member

“I like Springboard because we learn, and we play and have fun. I like my teacher and books.”
-Amiliana, Springboard student