



Memphis Shelby County Schools Demonstrate Historic Achievement Gains for English Learners



MAY 2023

MEMPHIS, TN

Challenge

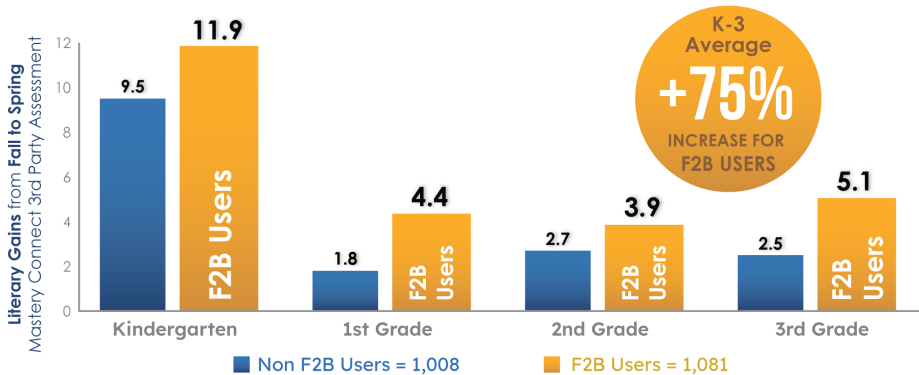
Memphis Shelby County Schools (MSCS) is Tennessee's largest school district and the top 23rd largest in the U.S. The district has a commitment to serve students of all backgrounds and ability (57% are economically disadvantaged and 13% are English Learners). For MSCS, "Literacy is Life." Its strategic plan acknowledges the lifelong impact of inadequate reading skills, which includes (1) struggling 3rd grade readers, (2) high school drop-outs, (3) links to incarceration rates, (4) unemployment, and (5) links to poverty.

MSCS' English as a Second Language Division created an initiative focused on innovation and equity. They provided English Learners districtwide with Footsteps2Brilliance's (F2B) comprehensive, bilingual apps to prepare their EL students for kindergarten and 3rd grade reading proficiency. The apps were aligned to MSCS' core curriculum and accessible on any smartphones, tablets, and computers that families already owned. English Learners demonstrated historic gains in just 1 year.

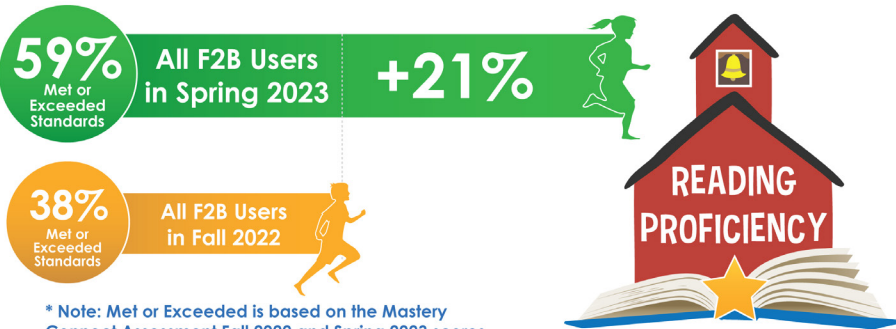
Immediate Results for English Learners

The ESL Division's systemwide strategy yielded immediate results for English Learners. In a 2023 study (n=2,089 ESL students / K-3rd grade), students with F2B app usage (n=1,081) outperformed non-F2B users (n=1,008)—with an average **75% increase across all K-3rd grade levels** on the **Mastery Connect 3rd party assessment** from Fall 2022 to Spring 2023.

K-3 District-Wide Study: English Language Learners



Similar findings demonstrated dramatic reading proficiency increases for students who used Footsteps2Brilliance. In the beginning of the year, only 38% "Met" or "Exceeded Expectations." By the end of the year, this increased to 59%*.



* Note: Met or Exceeded is based on the Mastery Connect Assessment Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 scores.

DATA SINCE 2022

26,400,000+
Words Read

43,800+
Books Read

10,500+
Hours Reading

23,400+
Books Written

LEADERSHIP TESTIMONIALS

"We are committed to providing an accelerated, equity model for our English Language Learners."

Carol Richardson,
Director for ESL Division

"F2B is doing a fantastic job making sure the F2B assignments are aligned to our Wonders curriculum, helping us discover a lot of the tools that we didn't know we needed, and then making those tools a reality."

Steven Kuhn,
Instructional Advisor for ESL

DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

Enrollment	102,219
Economically Disadvantaged	57%
Black or African American	75%
Hispanic	18%
English Learners	13%



Big Brains for Little People™



Memphis Shelby County Schools Demonstrate Historic Achievement Gains for English Learners



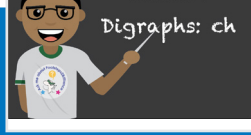

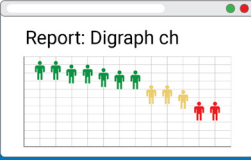
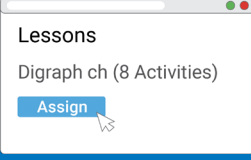
MAY 2023

MEMPHIS, TN

Immediate, Customized, and Scalable District-Wide Implementation

MSCS leveraged technology to help teachers effectively support their core curriculum. The Footsteps2Brilliance Core-Aligned Learning Routine™ saved teachers time by (1) aligning weekly lessons to the district's Wonders core curriculum and (2) providing targeted Footsteps2Brilliance lessons to remediate student learning gaps.

How It Works

- 1 Teachers present the unit of study from their core ELA program. 
- 2 F2B assigns practice and assessment materials aligned to the ELA program unit of study. 
- 3 F2B data dashboard provides teachers with student mastery information. 
- 4 Teachers assign prepackaged F2B lessons to remediate learning gaps for struggling students. 

Unique Bilingual Supportive Technology

English Learners login to their personalized Footsteps2Brilliance accounts with their curated, core-aligned assignments. Over 90% of MSCS' English Learners are Spanish speakers; therefore, students were assisted with unique bilingual supportive technology: a page-by-page English/Spanish toggle switch, read-aloud support, and record button to practice fluency.



Page-by-page dual language support



Accessibility via any device both online and offline



A record button to promote fluency, confidence, and vocabulary

Thousands of books, songs and literacy games in English and Spanish



Read-aloud features to help struggling readers



Teachers Recommend Footsteps2Brilliance



9.1/10

Excited about Footsteps2Brilliance!



Testimonials

"Fabulous product."

Bruce E.S. Teacher

"I love how students can switch from English to another language."

Riverwood E.S. Teacher

"It has features I have found in other apps but all in one place."

Woods Academy Teacher

"WIDA aligned!"

Woods Academy Teacher

"I am excited to utilize multi-language readers"

Macon Hall E.S. Teacher

"Letter sounds, phonics, and word recognition strategies help to close gaps"

Parkway Village E.S. Teacher



Big Brains for Little People™