

GOLDEN APPLE AWARD

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS

COFEEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

COFEEVILLE, ALABAMA

Coffeeville High School is a K-12 school located in rural Clarke County, Alabama, population 346. In Coffeeville, Alabama:

Estimated median household income in 2007: \$24,110 (it was \$19,545 in 2000)

Coffeeville: \$24,110

Alabama: \$40,554

During the summer of 2006, Coffeeville High became an Alabama Reading Initiative school. After discussion and visits to other schools, it was decided to implement Reading Mastery reading program using Direct Instruction strategies. Initial training and follow-up was provided by Educational Resources, Inc.

During the summer of 2007, K-3 teachers received intense professional development on the implementation of Reading Mastery from ERI. Throughout the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years, monthly follow-up visits from ERI continued. During these visits, classroom coaching and one-on-one teacher follow-up was conducted.

When implementation of Reading Mastery began at Coffeeville, the majority of students were in Reading Mastery Fast Start or Reading Mastery Plus Level 1, below grade level. Now, more students are in groups reading above grade level.

The state of Alabama mandates the use of DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) for all Kindergarten – 2nd grade students. DIBELS data further proves the reading growth occurring at Coffeeville::

By the end of Kindergarten in 2007-2008, percentages for all K students reaching benchmark scores on all DIBELS subtests was 100%.

In first grade on the Nonsense Words Fluency subtest- correct letter sounds- at the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, the percentage of students at benchmark score was 70%. By the end of the year, that had risen to 92% with 100% of the students reading the words on this subtest. Mid-year Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) in first grade last year was 27%. This year at mid-year, ORF has risen to 67%.

In second grade, oral reading fluency at mid-year, the number of students reaching benchmark score was 50% last year. As of mid-year this year, 80% have reached benchmark score.

Each month teachers meet for data and planning meetings, led by the principal, and also continue to receive professional development through monthly coaching from ERI, weekly coaching from the district reading coordinator, and daily coaching from the building level reading coach.

In only one and one-half year of implementation, tremendous growth has occurred. Most importantly, because of the success students have achieved in reading, they want to read to anyone that will stop long enough to listen. Even the look of many students has changed- they walk taller and smile more, because they know they can read well.

The current reading success of the students at Coffeeville will surely have a positive impact on this small rural town in the future. Stay tuned.....!

