

95%
GROUP INC.®

**Education Consulting and
Professional Development**

*95 percent of students reading at
grade level... an achievable goal*

Inspiring Reading Achievement in Title I Schools

A FORMULA FOR SURPASSING GOALS IN KINDERGARTEN



475 Half Day Road, Suite 350 / Lincolnshire, IL 60069 / 847-499-8200
www.95percentgroup.com



95 Percent Group & Rutherford County Schools

MAKING KIDS BETTER READERS



The Take Away

Of the 632 kindergarten students who entered the year in the intensive group, all but 99 moved up either one or two levels by the end of the year; of the 402 students who started in the strategic area, 77% of them achieved benchmark with excellent core and intervention instruction.

The successful implementation in Rutherford is due in large part to the dedication to maximizing student achievement and growth at every level of the district. As Trey Duke, Response to Intervention and Instructional Technology (RTI²) Coordinator for Rutherford County Schools, and Laura Schofield, Title I Facilitator of Staff Development, point out, 95 Percent Group materials fit perfectly into that plan by providing:

- Research-based practices teachers can provide in classrooms that result in growth for students
- Lessons that are solid and explicit
- Sustained, job-embedded professional development

“I have a specific teacher who currently has zero students served on Tier 2 or Tier 3.

When I ask her what she is doing to achieve this remarkable feat, her reply was, ‘I teach 95 Percent lessons every day.’”

- Title I School Principal
Rutherford County

Summary:

Rutherford County is one of the fastest growing school districts in Tennessee. Since the 2000-2001 school year, Rutherford County Schools has added more than 15,000 students for a total enrollment exceeding 41,000. During that time, the district has opened 17 new schools, and has completed additions/renovations at nine other schools. As the district continues to grow and change, its mission remains the same - to empower today's students to grasp tomorrow's opportunities.

The Challenge:

With 46 schools and more than 41,000 students, Rutherford has many challenges. The district operates 25 elementary schools including 10 Title-1 funded elementary schools that receive school-wide Title I funds. There are in excess of 2,000 students that qualify as English Language Learners, and roughly 17,000 students, more than 42% of the student population, are considered economically disadvantaged. The latest estimate in 2012 for free and reduced lunch eligibility was 35.2%.

With this high rate of growth and constantly changing demographic, how could the district effectively keep up with day to day responsibilities while also ensuring that all kids continue to become better readers?

The Solution:

According to Duke, it isn't about how many programs they could buy and put in the teachers' hands. Said Duke, "It was about how do we build a better teacher and then coach them with ongoing modeling, ongoing support throughout the day, and ongoing support for the kids who are most at risk."

After using DIBELS® assessments for several years, Rutherford County teachers weren't sure how to help their students who were identified as struggling readers. They began an intensive search to find the best possible way to help the students. They discovered Dr. Susan Hall's book, *I've DIBEL'd, Now What?* and then attended 95 Percent Group's public workshops. Following these steps and some research, they selected 95 Percent Group to support their implementation of RTI².

Work with Rutherford began in the fall of 2009 with a "Launch Day" for all Kindergarten and First Grade teachers from all 10 Title 1 schools.

Support continued with training for Instructional Coaches, Principals, and Assistant Principals including webinars, school visits, and ongoing support from 95 Percent Group Consultants.

“When you look at starting implementation, there are a lot of things and a lot of moving pieces to take into account. So, my biggest piece of advice for leaders is that you have to provide clarity,” Duke said. With this clarity, implementation began from the top down as a district-level initiative, and then moved to a bottom-up approach when teachers saw the swift pace of success in the classroom. Requests for 95 Percent Group products just took off. “The teachers were saying, ‘We want this product!’ We see what it is doing for kids in other schools – we need this product in our building,” Duke said.

Recent district surveys indicated that teachers value the intensity of the lessons that have been pre-designed in the *Phonics Lesson Library*™. These lessons, combined with continued Consultant support and staff development, have allowed for continuous implementation success for Tennessee’s RTI² process.

Schofield reports that 95 Percent Group materials fit perfectly into the district’s RTI² plan. She explains that the lessons are explicit and solid and that the ongoing support from 95 Percent Group Consultants has been exceptional. According to Duke, one of the best parts of working with 95 Percent Group is the on-site coaching visits.

“The beauty of 95 Percent Group is that the consultant is in there with us, doing the work with us, looking at our data, sitting down with our kids that we are troubled with and we’re not sure what to do with,” said Duke. “That consultant can sit down at the table and ask to work with you, then gives you some tips on how best to move this student forward.”

“The whole idea of a 95 Percent Group consultant coming in has been very, very powerful—and not just the implementation, but the on-going implementation of 95 Percent Group in our district.”

- *Trey Duke*,
Coordinator Rutherford County
Schools Response to Intervention and
Instructional Technology

Movement of K Students From Beginning of Year to End of Year				
K	Number of Students at Beginning of the Year	Where were these students at the End of the Year?		
		Intensive	Strategic	Core Only
Intensive	632	99	171	362
Strategic	402	16	76	310
Core Only	1255	15	107	1133

The Results:

95 Percent Group presence continues in Rutherford, not only in the elementary schools, but is also expanding into the middle schools.

Intentional clarity in direction is fundamental to the success of Rutherford’s RTI implementation. From the district office to the classroom, everyone knows their place in the process. Every step of the way, 95 Percent Group Consultants have been available to offer support and coaching, and to advise best-use practices with 95 Percent Group products. In addition to the *Phonics Lesson Library*™, schools in Rutherford County are currently using all of the instructional materials produced by 95 Percent Group.

Learn more about successful implementation of 95 Percent Group products and professional development services.

Questions?

We are here to help.
847-499-8200
www.95percentgroup.com

Topics: RTI, *Phonics Lesson Library*™, DIBELS®, Reading Intervention, Professional Development

95 Percent Group is a recognized leader in reading improvement at K-12 schools through professional development and instructional tools. The professional development, resources, and ongoing coaching and mentoring we deliver are tailored specifically to address the needs of your teachers and students.

Our services focus on your needs and your specific learning environment. We're specialists in reading—first, foremost, and only. Our knowledge in all components of reading instruction results in a highly comprehensive offering of professional development, instructional resources, and ongoing consulting with teachers and administrators to affect measurable and lasting improvement. We partner with schools to achieve our mission of sustainable improvements in reading achievement.

Because we are teachers, we have first-hand, authentic insight and experience about what works best and most consistently for students and teachers alike based on our own classroom experiences and our relationships with more than 1,000 schools and districts. This is more than theoretical—it's practical, proven, and based in classroom reality.

Our Approach is Customized

95 Percent Group recognizes that no two schools or districts are the same, so we customize a solution for you. It's important to take into account the progress you've already made in implementing RTI. We'll work for you to identify gaps, set goals, and plan steps to raise reading achievement. Our approach is all about partnership—we work with you to design a plan that is tailored to your school or district.

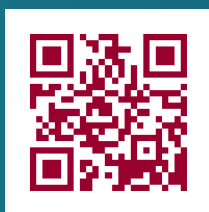
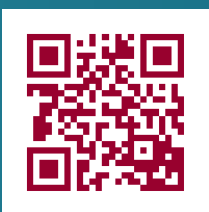
At the outset of an engagement we will:

- Look at student data to learn where your instruction is effective
- Identify areas for improvement
- Evaluate your assessment instruments to ensure you have what you need
- Review your instructional materials
- Help you develop a plan to improve instruction to raise student results

For additional information about how we can assist you in improving student reading achievement, contact us:
info@95percentgroup.com
T: 847.499.8200



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