

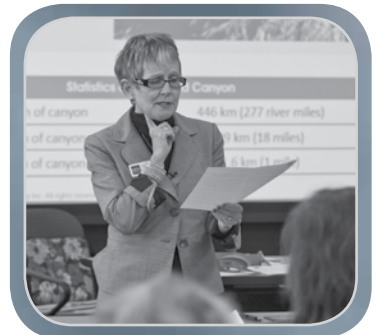
**95%**  
GROUP INC.

**Education Consulting and  
Professional Development**

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

# Case Study: Good To Great

Madison Simis Elementary School Becomes One of Arizona's Top Schools by Raising Reading Proficiency Levels Using 95 Percent Group's Products and Services



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*“I’m delighted to say that we continue to see dramatic changes in our student data, including gains for all readers in grade 4,” said Dr. Flowers. “Simis is among the top schools in the state of Arizona. I am convinced, based on the data, that we owe a great part of this to conscientious implementation of 95 Percent Group solutions.”*

*– Dr. Joyce Flowers,  
Principal, Madison Simis  
Elementary School (AZ)*



## GOOD TO GREAT

### **Madison Simis Elementary School Becomes One of Arizona’s Top Schools by Raising Reading Proficiency Levels Using 95 Percent Group’s products and services.**

Madison Simis Elementary School has, by all measures, been a successful school. Located in Maricopa County (AZ), this K-4 school had achieved reading proficiency levels in the mid- to upper- 80% range throughout the first decade of this century. However, the principal at Madison Simis, Dr. Joyce Flowers, was convinced her teachers and students could do even better.

### **The Challenge: Increasing Reading Scores for ALL Students**

In the past, Madison Simis has experienced a nearly 75% growth in its minority student population, including a more than doubling of its Hispanic population. However, the school does not receive any Title funding, nor does it have any full-time reading teachers. The challenge for Dr. Flowers was to make clear that resting on past laurels would not be acceptable.

“We look for growth from all students, not just our struggling students,” says Dr. Flowers. “We make sure that our growth is coming from the growth of all students. We can’t be satisfied with the growth we have experienced; some students haven’t reached their highest potential yet. We need to set high expectations and bring out the best in our teachers.”

Dr. Flowers was determined to have everyone work hard to increase reading proficiencies across the entire student population – despite limited resources.

### **The Solution**

Knowing that teacher buy-in is vital to a program’s success, Dr. Flowers did not want to introduce a program without the complete support of her staff. She asked them to visit a nearby school that was using 95 Percent Group products and services, and to report back with their recommendations. Her staff was skeptical on the way to their school visit, and was all but ready to say no to the proposed program. However, once they experienced first-hand how well it worked in the other school, they could not wait to implement it at Madison Simis Elementary.

The staff at Simis Elementary cohesively embraced 95 Percent Group’s strategies and techniques.

The school began with two presentations per day for first graders who were DIBELS Intensive. Additionally, they began using 95 Percent Group strategies for second semester kindergartners who were intensive. The school currently implements 95 Percent Group strategies with fidelity in all K-3 classrooms, as well as multi-syllable word routines daily in grade 4.

In addition to consistent implementation, Dr. Flowers stresses the importance of on-site coaching and follow-up visits, stating: "Implementation can only work with on-site coaching and follow-up. Otherwise, it is just nice stuff." In order to make the best use of a 95 Percent Group consultant's time, Dr. Flowers reviews the data, consults with the teachers to identify questions or concerns, and sets expectations before each on-site visit. As a result, all resources are fully maximized and everyone feels involved and an integral part of the process.

Through their partnership with 95 Percent Group, a professional learning community has developed at Simis Elementary. Teachers feel comfortable acknowledging when they need help, enabling them to work together in order to advance each student's growth in reading. The mentality has shifted from "my kids" to "our kids" as teachers share responsibility for each student and make instructional recommendations based on the data.

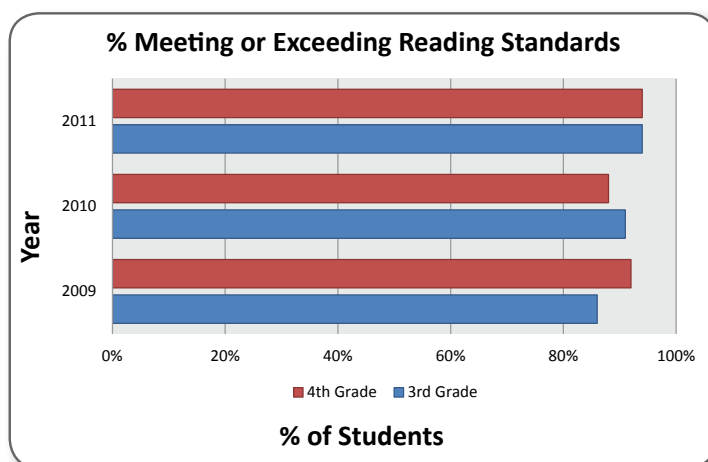
## The Results

Simis Elementary implemented 95 Percent Group solutions in K-4 and enjoyed immediate results. Simis Elementary has been recognized as a Top District Public Elementary School in the State of Arizona based on Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) and student growth. The percentage of third graders meeting or exceeding standards in AIMS Reading increased from 86% to 91% in one year and reached 94% the following year, while the percentage of fourth graders increased from 88% to 94% in just one year.

"I'm delighted to say that we continue to see dramatic changes in our student data, including gains for all readers in grade 4," said Dr. Flowers. "Simis is among the top schools in the state of Arizona. I am convinced, based on the data, that we owe a great part of this to conscientious implementation of 95 Percent Group solutions."

## Summary

- *Simis Elementary has limited resources, with no Title funding and no full-time reading teachers*
- *Principal Dr. Joyce Flowers partnered with 95 Percent Group to increase reading scores for ALL students*
- *The customized program included Professional Development, reading instruction materials, and follow-up on-site consultations*
- *Simis Elementary rose to #8 ranking (out of 1,280 public schools statewide)*



Visit [www.95percentgroup.com](http://www.95percentgroup.com) to find out more and to see Dr. Joyce Flowers' inspirational video on how she created a culture of high expectations at Madison Simis Elementary School.

**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 with 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.

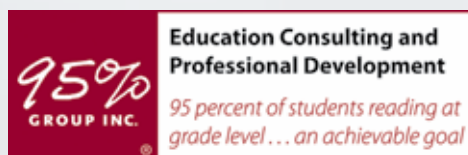
#### **At the outset of an engagement we will:**

- 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](mailto:info@95percentgroup.com)

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