Pompton Lakes School District

i-Ready by Curriculum Associates
An Adaptive, Interactive, Individualized Digital Program

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i-Ready is an interactive digital program for reading and mathematics designed to assess students and provide instruction based on an individual's needs. This adaptive program provides the promise of differentiated instruction. It grants an in-depth look at a student, personalizes learning, and monitors progress throughout an entire school year. Ultimately, i-Ready allows professionals to meet individual needs and provides data to increase learning gains.

The program starts with a powerful New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) aligned assessment - the Diagnostic. The Diagnostic assessment is a type of computer adaptive test that matches the difficulty of test questions to the ability of each student. As students answer questions correctly, the test becomes more difficult. As students answer questions incorrectly, the test becomes easier. The test adapts to find the precise ability of each student in the quickest, most efficient way possible. The purpose of the Diagnostic is not to give a student a score or a grade, but instead to determine how best to support an individual's learning.

Based on the Diagnostic results, i-Ready develops a Learning Path for each student in reading and mathematics. i-Ready Instruction provides students with lessons based on their individual skill level and needs. A student's Learning Path begins with lessons where there is the greatest need. Each student logs into their own personal account and learns at their own pace. These lessons are interactive and designed to keep students engaged in what they are learning.

On the professional platform, teachers are provided with a multitude of resources. From the Diagnostic results, Instructional Groupings are generated for class(es). These groupings are made by the program, grouping students with similar instructional needs. i-Ready provides a detailed report of Instructional Priorities and classroom resources to support differentiated instruction. The Instructional Priorities are an overview of how students were placed into the groupings. There are also quick recommendations on how to meet the needs of the students within this group. Recommended Teacher-Led Instruction is another component of the i-Ready report. These are specific instructional recommendations, supported by Tools for Instruction. The Tools for Instruction are targeted, skills-based mini-lessons. Professionals can download ready-made lessons. This is beneficial for not only the teacher of record but any other support staff to facilitate remediation. Ultimately, i-Ready complements what is being taught in the classroom in a data-driven way.

The inception of i-Ready into practice was two-fold. First, TenMarks (a math-based program, used by grades 2 to 8) informed all users that it was ceasing operations at the end of June 2019. Additionally, through a grant, the district began working with Jamie Zibulsky, Ph.D., NCSP who is the Associate Professor and Director of School Psychology Training at Fairleigh Dickinson University. As our trainer for the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Tiered Systems of Support, Dr. Zibulsky helped facilitate conversation about the current Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) processes at the elementary and middle school levels, specifically on how we identify and address at-risk students (students who are at-risk of not meeting grade-level expectations and/or are socio-emotionally at-risk). It was suggested that

a common assessment be given in order to enhance our Multi-Measure criteria. After careful vetting of various programs, a committee of stakeholders determined that i-Ready provided the district with a comprehensive program in both reading and mathematics, thus supporting professionals and their craft in a data-driven approach.

Implementation

In order to start the process of transitioning out of TenMarks, representatives from the math departments of Lakeside, Lenox, and Lincoln developed a collaborative document in which they developed the pros and cons of TenMarks. From here, the committee found potential replacements that could fit the needs of the professionals and the students. After carefully vetting approximately ten programs, it was decided that we would seek a presentation from i-Ready by Curriculum Associates. i-Ready consultant, Catherine McCormick, presented to the committee and all math teachers in grades three to eight on a Curriculum Day in December 2018. After the meeting, all attendees were sent a survey. The survey asked stakeholders to rate the appropriateness of i-Ready to their population and asked them to provide specific feedback on the program. Feedback was reviewed by the initial committee and it was deemed positive.

After the presentation from i-Ready, the consultant offered Experience Pilot Accounts to both Lenox and Lincoln. The Experience Pilot offered full usage and exposure to the i-Ready program. Internally, each school determined how they were going to utilize their 105 Experience Pilot Accounts. It was determined that Lenox would use them for one class in third, all of fourth, and one class in fifth grade. At Lincoln, all students in third and fourth grade (current 4th and 5th graders) were afforded an opportunity to trial i-Ready.

Before administering the Diagnostic assessment, teachers participating in the Experience Pilot were trained by the i-Ready consultant. The consultant spent half a day with both schools and demonstrated how to use the i-Ready platform and its components. Teachers administered the Diagnostic assessment in February 2019. The Diagnostic took about four days to complete in forty to sixty minute periods. Upon completion, the teachers were excited to view and analyze the results.

In order to effectively analyze the results, the i-Ready consultant returned in March 2019 for another half-day workshop at each building. At this meeting, teachers were shown how to navigate the Diagnostic Results and all of its components. This included placement in each domain in Reading (Phonological Awareness, Phonics, High-Frequency Words, Vocabulary, Comprehension: Literature, Comprehensive: Informational Text) and Mathematics (Numbers & Operations, Algebra & Algebraic Thinking, Measurement & Data, Geometry), National Norm and Quantile Placement, Typical and Stretch Growth, Developmental Analysis, Cans Dos of their students, Next Steps and Resources for Instruction, and Tools for Instruction. Feedback was extremely positive. Many commented on how thorough the data received was and the report was easy to analyze in order to inform their instruction. Professionals were also impressed by the alignment to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) and the potential to help

prepare their students for the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) while utilizing the program.

Based on the success of the Experience Pilot, it was decided that for the 2019-2020 school year, i-Ready licenses would be purchased for all elementary students entering third, fourth, and fifth grade. In September 2019, professionals administered the first Diagnostic. After completion, the Diagnostic Data was read and analyzed by specialists and teachers in various settings. These settings included Grade Level Meetings, Professional Learning Communities, and Professional Learning Days.

In January/February 2020, the second Diagnostic will be administered in all grades. The results from this Diagnostic will provide professionals with placement changes in all tested domains. This will support where students are the strongest and what domains need the most support. This will afford the opportunity to develop action plans for individual students. Additionally, a placement summary will be provided, as well as a needs analysis and new placements. Teachers will be able to identify areas of potential focus, set goals, and celebrate performance, improvement, and progress.

The third and final Diagnostic of the 2019-2020 school year will be administered in May/June 2020. Upon completion, professionals will be able to reflect, celebrate, and plan for implementation for the 2020-2021 school year. i-Ready is rostered through PowerSchool, therefore any data collected by i-Ready will be re-rostered with our PowerSchool settings. The information gained from the Diagnostics will be used to inform groupings for the next school year. Ultimately, because the data is stored, the data will be passed on to the student's future teachers.

Expectations

Research indicates students achieve greater gains with at least 30 to 49 minutes per subject per week of i-Ready Online Instruction. Therefore, for the 2019-2020 school year, students will spend 45 minutes per subject per week completing assignments that are based on their personalized Learning Path. By having a clear goal, professionals have been able to establish a plan for when and how students will regularly access i-Ready Instruction so that they can achieve their growth targets.

During the school year, they will be assessed three times per year with the i-Ready Diagnostic to determine growth (September 2019, January/February 2020, May/June 2020). Teachers and support staff will conference with students, conduct data chats, and teach mini-lessons to further support learning. Additionally, teachers will discuss data reports during Professional Learning Communities, Grade Level Meetings, and Professional Learning Days to analyze student needs and plan for instruction.

<u>Benefits</u>

i-Ready is a research-based program that is New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) Aligned. The program offers teachers and students a common assessment for our students in grades three, four, and five, along with an individualized Learning Path. The comprehensive analysis of each of the domains for Reading and Mathematics offers teachers and administrators a way to plan for differentiated instruction (instructional groupings) that relates to the strengths and weaknesses of the present student population. i-Ready meets the Response to Intervention (RTI)/New Jersey Tiered Systems of Support (NJTSS) Criteria, which is used to determine targeted students for both in-class support and the After School Learning Program. The data reports offer support for I&RS meetings and parent/teacher conferences. i-Ready Central has a toolbox of premade resources in multiple languages to support teachers, administrators, students, and parents.

<u>Incentives</u>

Lenox School students in grades three to five are participating in a Math Incentive from December 9th through February 28th. Students are rewarded for the lessons that they pass with "House" points and prizes.

Lincoln School students are participating in the i-Ready Race to 1,000. Each class in grades three to five are racing to 1,000 lessons passed. Every classroom has a gumball machine posted outside of their classrooms. Each time an individual passes a lesson, they are awarded a gumball sticker, write their initials on it, and stick it on to the machine. Ultimately, the first class to 1,000 lessons passed collectively will receive a prize. Additionally, a weekly Leaderboard for Reading and Math is being posted for the following categories: Most Time Spent and Most Lessons Passed.

<u>Future Plans</u>

At Lakeside, sixth grade students in Math and English-Language Arts Skills classes will be participating in an Experience Pilot beginning in January 2020. Additionally, special education students in sixth grade will also be participating in the pilot.

Students and professionals in grades three through five will continue utilizing i-Ready for 2020-2021. Lincoln School will pilot the program for Grade 2 in January 2020. Implementation for the Diagnostic and Instruction for Grade 2 will begin for both Lincoln and Lenox for the 2020-2021 school year. Kindergarten and First Grade will take the three diagnostics each school year using the online program.

<u>Presentation</u>

The presentation will include an overview and excerpts of the data rich reports professionals are utilizing to inform their instruction and further meet student needs.
We would like to thank the Board of Education, the Superintendent and the Director of Curriculum for their continued support of our initiatives at the elementary schools.