

Case Study

St. Augustine, Florida

"My school was looking for a web-based reading diagnostic since we had almost 400 students who needed remediation. We just did not have the manpower to perform one-on-one testing with these students. At a summer institute, one of my co-workers discovered your product. We set up a trial run, and after completing the trial with one remedial reading class, we were sold! After receiving approval from the District Office, we ordered allocations and piloted the program. Now eight more schools in our county have signed up!"

- Shara Holt, St. Augustine High School
Secondary Language Arts Coordinator
St. John's School District, St. Augustine, Florida

Customer Profile	
Product Used	DORA
School	St. Augustine High
Size	1463
Deployment Type	Remedial reading
Benefits	- Easy reporting - Guides instruction - Ongoing measurement of student progress
Results	- Measured growth in students - 8 other schools in district now using DORA

Challenges Faced:

What problems were you hoping to address?

My school [St. Augustine High School] was looking for a web-based reading diagnostic since we had almost 400 students who needed reading remediation. We just did not have the manpower to perform one-on-one testing with these students.

Which of our products do you use?

We began using your reading assessment [DORA: Diagnostic Online Reading Assessment] in 2003 at our middle and high schools. Our elementary schools are interested in using Let's Go Learn now, and they will probably be interested in using Unique Reader's supplemental instruction.

Strategies Implemented:

How has Let's Go Learn helped your instructional practices?

We look at the categories (in the full diagnostic report) that are marked as "Priority" to see where students need help so that we can focus our instruction there. Our students, because they are in middle and high school, do not usually need help in the word analysis or phonics sections. We focus primarily on vocabulary and comprehension skills when they are needed. Because the FCAT (our State standardized testing) does not test spelling, we unfortunately do not focus on that instructionally. Let's Go Learn has made us more aware of our students' spelling needs and we hope to address them more in the future.

Every year, we have to fill out an AIP [Academic Improvement Plan] form for every Level 1 student [those who have not demonstrated proficiency on the FCAT], so we attach the summary report, which gives a nice summary of the student's performance on each sub-skill of reading, to each AIP report.

In our middle school, we also like to show the standards report.* We send a copy of it to be filed in the students' cumulative folder, a copy to the guidance counselor, and a copy to the parents. If a student is tested more than once,

* Available for all 50 states.

we also share the supplemental report, which shows student growth, with the student and their parents, and a copy of it is attached to their AIP report.

How often do you give the DORA?

Our high school students who need extra reading support usually only receive intervention for one semester. Therefore, they get assessed at the beginning of the semester and at the end. If students have not made a lot of progress, we will re-enroll them in the reading class the next semester, so those few students will be assessed a third time at the end of their second semester.

Our middle schools were planning on testing reading at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year, like they did last year, but they just found out they now have to test four times per year. They were really excited to hear that we can use Let's Go Learn for those assessments in August, November, February, and May. Instead of having to find the time and resources to test all of our middle school students on a one-on-one basis, we are going to be able to test students in large groups in our computer labs.

Results:

Have you seen growth in your students?

Yes. For those students who take the test twice, we have really been able to see the growth they have made. We have actually been so pleased with the results at the high school and middle school levels that I now have elementary schools asking if they can use Let's Go Learn too! I know that if they find out about the Unique Reader option, they will want that too because it sounds like a great elementary product.

What can you say about our product that others should hear?

The diagnostic provides so much information that our school can offer to teachers and parents--the four reports and the chart that shows the student's progress are really helpful.