

# BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOLS MAKE STUNNING STRIDES IN READING

**KINDERGARTEN BENCHMARKS INCREASE FROM 47% TO 88% IN JUST TWO YEARS!**

**BASD Kindergarten End-of-Year DIBELS Assessment Results**

	<i>EOY 2014-2015</i>	<i>BOY 2015-2016</i>	<i>MOY 2015-2016</i>	<i>EOY 2015-2016</i>	<i>BOY 2016-2017</i>	<i>MOY 2016-2017</i>	<i>EOY 2016-2017</i>
Asa Packer	47	55	57	82	53	82	95
Calypso	35	47	84	82	64	100	100
Clearview	51	51	86	89	40	69	86
Donegan	30	31	52	54	24	46	87
Farmersville	64	74	94	87	63	92	95
Fountain Hill	28	42	39	58	25	43	73
Freemansburg	51	28	42	38	18	86	96
Governor Wolf	36	48	74	72	42	79	79
Hanover	70	76	88	94	76	78	89
James Buchanan	60	74	81	78	53	89	94
Lincoln	32	37	65	90	52	84	91
Marvine	40	32	65	67	37	53	74
Miller Heights	62	73	75	73	60	83	97
Spring Garden	51	70	71	75	59	78	92
Thomas Jefferson	75	38	62	71	40	74	89
William Penn	42	44	37	42	53	65	85
<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>88</b>

BOY= Beginning of Year DIBELS Composite Score (% of students at grade level)

MOY=Middle of the Year DIBELS Composite Score (% of students at grade level)

EOY= End of the Year DIBELS Composite Score (% of students at grade level)

jps060117

Bethlehem Area School District (BASD), PA's 6th largest school system and the #1 Most Diverse District in PA has chosen Step By Step Learning (SBSL) to be their 2017-2018 MTSS implementation partner as they continue to usher in reforms that have dramatically improved literacy in kindergarten last year. The end of year assessment scores in Kindergarten rose from 46% in 2015 to 88% in 2017 with the help of Step By Step Learning's team of trainers and advisor-literacy coaches. BASD is excited to announce that SBSL will be working with Kindergarten and 1st grade teachers and parents of PreK children in all of BASD elementary schools this year.

When BASD administrators set a goal of having ALL students reading on grade level by the end of third grade, they knew they needed to start with their youngest students. Now, two years into universal full-day kindergarten and intensive literacy training [conducted by Step By Step Learning® for teachers and principals, administrators are floored by the results they're seeing.



**Contact Step By Step Learning® at [info@sbsl.org](mailto:info@sbsl.org) or by phone at 610-398-1231**

At the start of the 2015 school year, 46 percent of district kindergarteners tested on grade level for literacy. By the close of the 2017 school year, that score had grown to 88 percent.

West Bethlehem's Calypso Elementary School, which started out with 64 percent testing on grade level, finished the year with (100%) every single kindergartner testing on level. Assistant Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jack Silva said he's been an educator for 30 years and the gains are astounding. "I've never seen anything like this." "These are spectacular," School Director Eugene McKeon said. "They really are. We never saw gains like this...ever. Hats off to Step By Step Learning for their advise and guidance"

BASD began their work with SBSL in 2015. SBSL accelerated the academic achievement results in 2016-17 to 88%.

Superintendent Dr. Joseph Roy said that in over 31 years in education, he's never seen such clear results. "When we talk about excellence through equity, this is a great example of how instruction can get to that," Roy said.

Thanks to Step By Step Learning, teachers and administrators now truly understand what it takes for students to learn to read, write and spell to grade level even when they come to our schools severely at risk of academic failure, said Kim Harper, district supervisor of curriculum, instruction and assessment.

"Teaching reading is not simply reading words. It is not going to happen organically," Harper said. "We have to provide direct, explicit and multi-sensory instruction from bell to bell...every day, to make the impact needed to get every child to successfully Read By Grade 3."

There's still plenty of work to do, Silva said, noting that now first-grade teachers will have to raise the bar since students are entering better prepared.

**“These are spectacular, they really are. We never see gains like this...ever”**

**- EUGENE MCKEON, SCHOOL DIRECTOR**

And the district is also focusing on ways to ensure more students enter kindergarten ready to learn. Starting in August, Bethlehem will hold events for parents and pre-K providers on a monthly basis, including open houses, pre-K literacy training sessions conducted by district teachers and guided by Step By Step Learning, and an incoming play date orientation session for students. The district wants to offer parents and pre-K providers face to face opportunities and online tools that are designed to be easy to use, and host real life literacy strategies parents can incorporate into their daily life from their child's birth, explained Dr. Jodi Frankelli, district supervisor of early learning, grants and development.

If you are interested in learning more about how BASD is significantly raising achievement for all students, please contact **Step By Step Learning® at [info@sbsl.org](mailto:info@sbsl.org) or by phone at 610-398-1231.**