

A STORY OF LONG-TERM SUCCESS



For 17 years, students of Ohio's Pugliese West Elementary School have used SFA's cooperative learning strategies to overcome academic and economic challenges

THE CHALLENGE

Academic success for students was not always the norm at Pugliese West Elementary School, in Steubenville, Ohio. At the end of the 1990s, its state test scores were very low. Part of the problem was that teachers worked in silos and did not collaborate with one another on lesson plans or on the progress of all students (not just the ones in their own classes). Students also struggled with non-academic problems, most living in below-poverty-level conditions.

THE SOLUTION

The school considered three different program models, funded by the district, to help them turn things around, improving reading ability, boosting scores and raising the bar overall academically. They selected Success for All for its proven cooperative learning strategies, backed by the resources, training and materials needed to do a superior teaching job.

The staff members worked hard to implement SFA properly, ensuring all parts were in place

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EDIE BOYD, SFA Facilitator

to give students the help they needed to shine. As a result, Pugliese West Elementary developed a completely different school climate. Its leadership is distributed among several solutions subcommittees, which work to address any needs students may have, whether academic or personal. Goals are regularly set, processes are streamlined and SFA's deep well of resources are utilized to meet them.

And the teachers no longer operate in silos, but are armed with a bigger picture to drive the school's success overall. SFA Facilitator Edie Boyd points out: "Teachers are aware of all students in the building, no matter what grade level, who are on the 'hot list'



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[performing just below grade level]. I think that helps, because if I am a third grade teacher, I'm not just worried about Wings, I'm also able to look at the Roots goal, or even the preschool goal."

THE RESULTS

SFA has proven to be a long-term success for Pugliese West Elementary. Although educational trends have come and gone, the school has stayed with the program and 2016-17 is its 17th year of implementation!

In the last two years, the school has been designated "high performing" by the state, as well as a "school of promise." To get this recognition, it had to perform well across the board, including different economic and special-needs student groups.

Lynette Gorman not only recommends the program as principal of Pugliese West Elementary, she has experienced its success as a parent. Her son, set to graduate soon from Penn State University, found that SFA's approach of cooperative learning in groups provided an excellent foundation for scholastic achievement, leading to his success in high school and college.

Success Starts Early

Since Ohio is an "open enrollment" state, parents can send their children to any public school they choose close to home. In early 2017, parents of a kindergarten-age child decided to check out Pugliese West Elementary, searching for a good school for first grade, at the start of the next school year.

But the family was so impressed by what they saw in the Grade 1 classrooms, during the Success for All reading block, they asked to see the kindergarten program as well. This convinced them to send their child to Pugliese West immediately, and not later for the start of first grade. They realized the path to success can never start too early.



FOUNDED IN 1987, the nonprofit Success for All Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that every child, from pre-kindergarten to grade 8, becomes proficient in reading and learning – opening up new doors for a lifetime of achievement. Not only has SFA been proven time and again to help with student reading ability and math performance, it also addresses non-academic concerns, improving behavior, attendance and parental involvement. Please contact us for more information.

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