



Marshall Case Study

2026

How Marshall Middle School, MN levelled up its literacy system.

600+

students screened,
grades 5-8

39% → 62%

Word Recognition &
Decoding

53% → 61%

Reading Comprehension

Challenge



The Assessment Gap: Marshall Middle School lacked a consistent literacy system able to identify the specific root causes of reading difficulties to guide targeted instruction.



The Hidden Hurdle: School leaders needed to determine whether older, struggling readers still lacked mastery of foundational, word-level skills.



The Baseline Reality: Initial school year screening revealed that word recognition and decoding needs were far more pervasive across the student body than anticipated.

“Earlier assessments showed who was behind; ReadBasix helped show why they were behind. This data gave the team a clearer count of students needing foundational support.”

Marshall Middle School Leadership Team



[Watch the
webinar](#)

Turning Point

In response to the data, Marshall reframed its literacy strategy around the "decoding threshold," recognizing that comprehension plateaus without accurate word recognition. By isolating Capti ReadBasix Subtest #1 as a precise diagnostic signal, the school eliminated guesswork and deployed targeted, evidence-based interventions.

What Marshall Changed

- ✓ Administered ReadBasix to all middle school students in the second week of school to establish an immediate, actionable baseline of instructional needs.
- ✓ Created an explicit intervention menu matching ReadBasix data to evidence-based resources and instruction.
- ✓ Moved away from grouping students by broad performance labels, instead clustering them into specific intervention pathways based on their decoding needs.
- ✓ Scaled literacy staffing and group sizes in response to data, ensuring students received intensive, targeted support.

The shift: Marshall deployed a comprehensive, structured operational framework to dramatically shift student literacy instruction. The administration acted strategically, establishing a swift screening timeline, mapping specific student reading needs, and repurposing the focus of instruction during a daily, flexible intervention block.

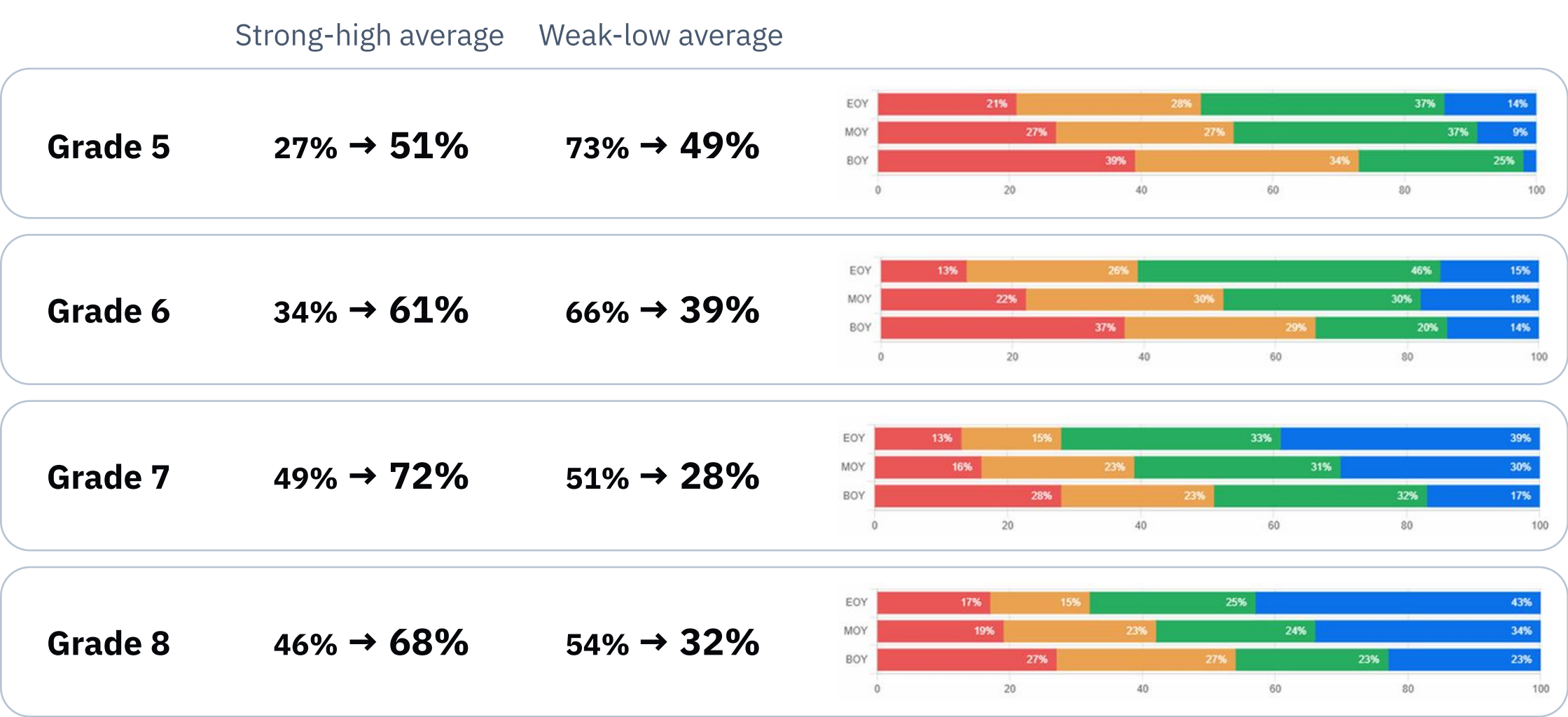
“Our Priority: Create a system that offers targeted reading support for our learners.”

**Marshall Middle School
Administration**

	Focus	The 5-Step Operational Shift
Step 1	Universal & Diagnostic Screening	Conducted summer planning and ran ReadBasix in week two to audit all students' instructional needs.
Step 2	Additional Diagnostics for Placement	Administered additional phonemic awareness test and phonics inventory to students scoring 220 or below to sharpen precise placement entries.
Step 3	Group Students by Skill Need	Aligned intervention groups directly to root causes (phonemic awareness, phonics, or multisyllabic decoding).
Step 4	Support Teacher for Consistent Delivery	Provided clear intervention routines, program materials, and dedicated daily intervention time.
Step 5	Build Familiarity & Confidence	Embedded the school-wide "Word of the Day" practice opportunities to reinforce regular, daily attention to word-level reading.

Outcomes for Students

Dramatic Tier shifts were achieved in Word Recognition & Decoding. By moving from general identification to precise, root-cause intervention, Marshall Middle School achieved massive student turnaround by the end of the 3rd quarter, Year 1 of using ReadBasix:



Why This Matters for District and State Leaders

Systemic literacy equity requires secondary screeners that measure word-level components alongside comprehension, pairing diagnostic root-cause data with a protected, intentionally scheduled intervention programming to target exact skill deficits without lowering expectations.

“Build intervention time into the daily schedule. Use diagnostic insight to group by actual skill need. Support teachers with routines, materials, and confidence. Trust the process and use expert guidance along the way.”

Leadership takeaway

Ready to make a difference?

Book a personalized demo with our team today and discover how ReadBasix can empower your educators and students.

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