

CASE STUDY

How Scholastic helped a school district implement an effective literacy block

SCENARIO:

Jeffco Public Schools in Golden, Colorado, began using a new reading resource in 44 of its elementary schools. Their goal: to implement a complete literacy block, including whole- and small-group instruction.

THE ISSUE:

When visiting the classrooms, a district official realized that Jeffco lacked the necessary variety of books to engage students in high-quality independent reading. They needed more reading options, especially social studies and science texts, to match students' interests and support the curriculum.

SCHOLASTIC STEPS IN:

Jeffco contacted its Scholastic Account Executive, who helped first to align the funding to obtain the much-needed classroom libraries, then to create a comprehensive professional development plan to support the district's objectives. That plan included:

- District-wide training for all literacy coaches on the contents of the libraries, text levels, and best ways to use them
- In-class coaching for teachers on how to use the classroom libraries to implement an independent reading program
- Additional training, once teachers mastered the literacy block, helping them to better identify what effective independent reading looks like, ensure students were reading texts at the correct level, collect data, and much more

THE OUTCOME:

Laura Munro, former Executive Director of the Jeffco Department of Diverse Learners, writes, "What is great about Scholastic is they walk the talk. . . . We're able to go into schools and see a more complete literacy block being implemented. . . . Scholastic helped us get there." For the next school year, Jeffco and Scholastic followed up with professional development plans customized to the specific needs of each school.

