



# Achievement improves after students use mobile reading intervention program

## School Profile

City/State:  
City of Pembroke Pines,  
Florida

School Type:  
Charter

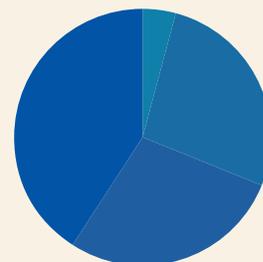
District Enrollment:  
Broward County  
Public Schools:  
262,587 students

City of Pembroke Pines  
Charter School System:  
5,600 students

School Enrollment:  
643 students

Grades:  
6-8

Ethnicity: ■ 41% Hispanic/Latino  
■ 28% Caucasian  
■ 27% African American  
■ 4% Asian



## » Overview

Pembroke Pines Charter Middle School is a high performing public charter school whose overall test scores are among the top in the state. Principal Devarn Flowers wants to ensure that all students meet or exceed the proficiency standards set by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE), and more importantly, make annual learning gains. During classroom visits, she considered innovative ways to meet the unique needs of diverse populations in Intensive Reading.

## » Challenge

Each year the City of Pembroke Pines Charter Middle School (PPCMS) undertakes a thorough analysis of their data to inform their decisions about how they can improve student achievement. The trend data and observations of the Intensive Reading classes in the spring of 2013 indicated a need to increase student engagement, improve delivery of differentiated instruction, and foster student love of reading through the utilization of various instructional tools. Reading was taught in a 90 minute traditional classroom setting and students made marginal learning gains; however, administrators and teachers believed students could improve if exposed to alternate learning modalities.

Pembroke Pines Charter  
Middle School (West Campus)  
SUCCESS STORY »

*“iLit is student centered and directed toward each student’s learning goals.”*

– Michael Castellano,  
Assistant Principal

*“iLit structures the learning so that it can be delivered in an effective and strategic format”*

– Devarn Flowers,  
Principal

## » Solution

Since today’s students are digital learners and enjoy using digital devices, the school’s leadership team researched technology-based developmental reading programs. After comparing four programs, they chose iLit, a tablet based program from Pearson, because it was not only comprehensive but also user-friendly for teachers and students. “I love the fact that it focuses on individualized instruction, and has a comprehensive approach to learning,” says Flowers. “The program incorporates the different components of reading in a format that engages students.”

PPCMS began implementing the program in the fall of 2013. The implementation process involved updates to the school’s infrastructure and the purchase of additional iPads. The Intensive Reading teacher participated in a professional development session which explained classroom set up, app navigation, the instructional day, student management, progress monitoring and general iPad use.

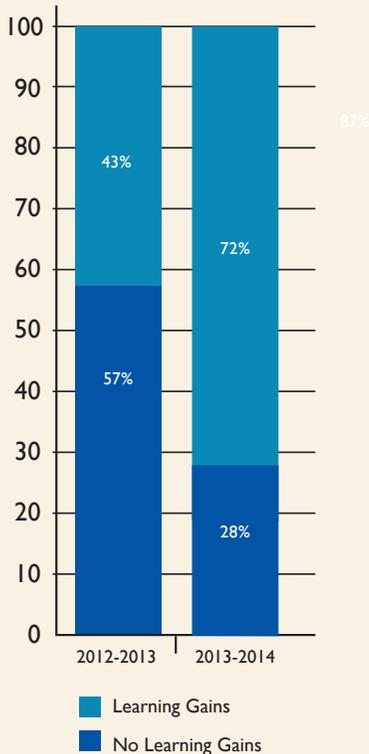
## » Results

After a year of implementation, the program has yielded positive results. Seventy-two percent of the students using the iLit program made Learning Gains in reading as measured by the 2014 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT 2.0) (see Figure 1). Prior to the iLit implementation, only 43% of this same group of students made Learning Gains. The program has been instrumental in differentiating instruction and in providing instructional delivery in an innovative format. Assistant Principal Michael Castellano observed that in the traditional classroom the academic needs of students were so widespread that differentiated instruction was a challenge. In contrast, “iLit is a customized learning approach that meets each student at their academic level, thereby making it easier to focus on individual needs,” explained Castellano.

Flowers has observed an increased excitement towards learning and greater engagement since the tablet program was implemented. “iLit has made for a richer classroom experience and has helped teachers improve capacity. As a result, there is an increase in student engagement, collaborative group work, and the use of guided questions throughout the lesson,” she reported.

Based on the success of the program, Pembroke Pines continues to use iLit in its Intensive Reading classes and Principal Flowers has agreed to share her implementation experience and insights as a participant on the iLit Advisory Panel.

FIGURE 1:  
FCAT Learning Gains in Reading



Developmental Reading Classes, Grades 6-8  
(n=47)

To learn more about  
digital literacy solutions, visit  
[PearsonSchool.com/iLit](http://PearsonSchool.com/iLit)