



Bunker's Hill State School

Evidence in progress snapshot

Investing for Success

November, 2017

Background

The school's NAPLAN data shows that the school does not achieve a high percentage of students achieving at the upper levels of this assessment (the Upper 2 Bands). Our goals for this initiative were:

- Increase the percentages of students at the school achieving in the Upper 2 Bands in all areas of NAPLAN in both Years 3 and 5.
- Meet or exceed state and national percentages of students achieving in the Upper 2 Bands in all areas of NAPLAN.
- Ensure all students achieve the National Minimum Standards in NAPLAN, or have support programs in place with evidence that students are making clear progress.

Design – Line of sight

Our Investing for Success initiative included:

- Regular scheduled data meetings and year-level meetings involving all classroom teachers in the school to review student progress, particularly in reading, and plan modifications to teaching and student support to ensure all students were improving. Research indicates that analysis of student data and responding to this is vital to ensure that all students succeed.
- Accessing professional development to enhance teacher and teacher aide skills in teaching literacy and numeracy skills.
- Increasing Speech-Language Therapist support in the school. This has helped address the growing incidence of speech and language needs in students at the school, particularly younger students.
- Running extension program for high achieving students. These students were identified during the data meetings described above.

These initiatives ran throughout the year.

Data used to review student progress included student performance on standardised and diagnostic tests, results from spelling revision tests, and student progress on phonics, sight words and other aspects of reading.

Impact – Student improvement

All students made measurable improvement in reading throughout the year. Students who were not making progress were identified, and strategies implemented to address these students' needs. For some students, the identification of their precise needs is an ongoing process.

In NAPLAN, our Year 3 students performed strongly, improving percentages of students in the Upper 2 Bands, and exceeding State percentages in this measure in all areas of NAPLAN, and exceeding National percentages in two of the five areas.

However, our Year 5 students did not perform as strongly, with less students achieving in the Upper 2 Bands, and the school not matching State or National percentages in this measure. This result was investigated, and it was determined that a new focus on reading in all areas of the curriculum needs to be implemented to address this issue.

While most students exceeded that National Minimum Standard, those who did not were supported in their learning.

Scalability – Potential to implement

Data meetings have been conducted in the school for around five years. However, the Investing for Success funding has made it possible to schedule these at regular intervals and for all classroom teachers.

The school developed and refined tools and processes for tracking the progress of every student in the school in 2017. While these tools and processes have become more efficient, the regular release of teachers for data meetings is an ongoing expense.

Investment – Creating value

In the 2017 calendar year to December, \$65,214 was spent in total on these initiatives. The great bulk of this was spent on salaries and wages for teachers and teacher aides.

Conclusion

The use of data meetings is clearly having an impact on student achievement. However, the data examined needs to be refined, particularly for students above Year 3, to examine progress in reading across the curriculum (reading to learn).

Teachers need to be supported in planning and implementing teaching and assessing of reading across the curriculum, and this can be achieved through structured input into Year Level meetings which are already in place.

By adjusting current practices in this way, the goals above should be realised consistently across the school.

