



Obtaining Powerful Reading  
Results Despite Barriers:  
Lessons from  
Cullman City Primary School

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Alabama Association of School Boards Conference  
December 2, 2021





**CULLMAN CITY  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL**

**900 Hoehn Drive  
Cullman, AL 35055  
Phone: (256) 775.0234**

- 13 Kindergarten
- 13 1st Grade
- 6 Pre-K Classrooms
- 2 Special Education Teachers
- 2 Speech Teachers
- 1 Principal
- 1 ARI Local Reading Specialist
- 21 Students per K-1 Classroom

# Exemplary Support



- Commitment from School Board Members and Superintendent
  - Ongoing contact with curriculum coordinator and ARI regional support
  - Consistent support from other coaches
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# Professional Learning Communities: Where We Began

**-Cohort One:** Reading Coach

**-Cohort Two:** 3 K Teachers, 3 1st Teachers, 1 Reading Interventionist, PreK

**-Cohort Three (a&b):** 8 K Teachers, 8 1st Teachers, 1 Speech Teacher, 2 Special Education Teachers, 1 Guidance Counselor

**-Cohort Four:** 2 K Teachers, 1 First Grade Teacher, 1 Special Education Teacher

**-Cohort Five:** 3 K Teachers, 2 First Grade Teachers

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# Weekly PLC Schedule

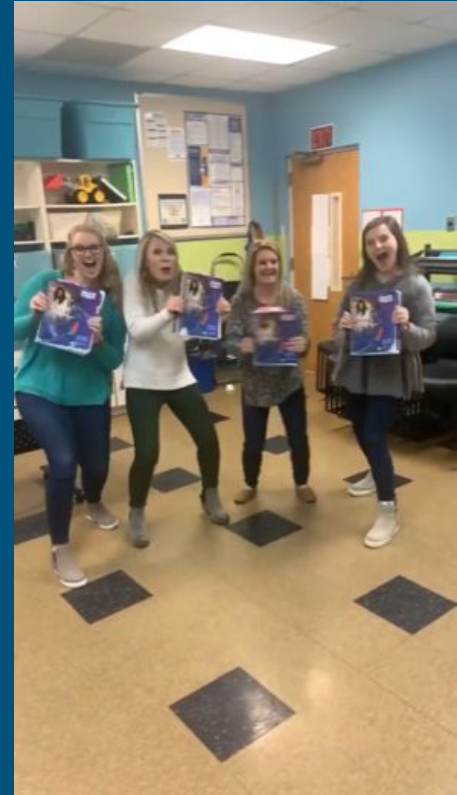
Welcome/ Review Previous Bridge to Practice  
Activities/ Concerns

New Session Review (30-45 Minutes)

- Application to Classroom Practice
- Sharing Ideas
- Collaboration

Wrap Up/Discussion of Coaching Needs

Upcoming Bridge to Practice Activities/Clarification



# Instructional Change

## Explicit, Systematic Phonics Instruction

- *A Fresh Look at Phonics*
- Differentiation in whole and small group instruction
- Common language
- See Saw
- Collaboration to review and revise phonics progression



# Instructional Change

## Rethinking Sight Word Instruction

- Grouping words by common initial sound
- Heart Words Technique
- Multisensory Instruction



# Instructional Change

## Phonemic/Phonological Awareness

- Heggerty
- Collaboration with Speech and Language Teachers
- Sound Walls





# BOY Data 20-21

## Kindergarten

**Composite** 40% at or above benchmark

**NWF-WRC** 10% at or above benchmark

## First Grade

**Composite** 70% at or above benchmark

**ORF** 63% at or above benchmark

**Accuracy** 45% at or above benchmark

# EOY Data 20-21

## Kindergarten

**Composite** 94% at or above benchmark

**NWF-WRC** 91% at or above benchmark

## First Grade

**Composite** 93% at or above benchmark

**ORF** 87% at or above benchmark

**Accuracy** 88% at or above benchmark

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PROUD TO BE

*the 2021 Winner  
for the*

**DR. LOUISA MOATS AWARD**



CULLMAN CITY  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



# ATTITUDE

It's where we begin....

Toward the Literacy Act

Toward our colleagues

Parents

Health Concerns

Students

Goals for the year

# ATTITUDE

## Approach



# ATTITUDE

Time Management



# ATTITUDE

Talk and Share



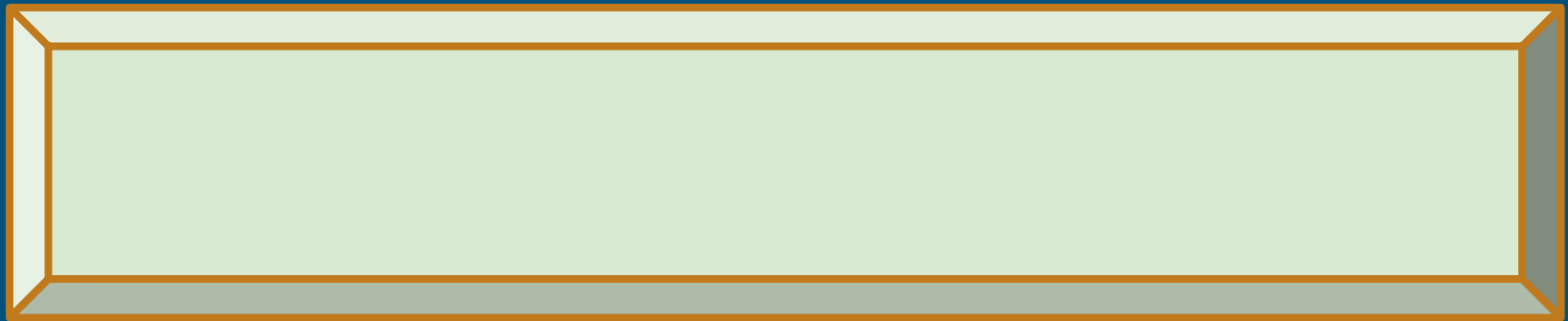
ATTITUDE

Intentional



# ATTITUDE

Together in Spirit





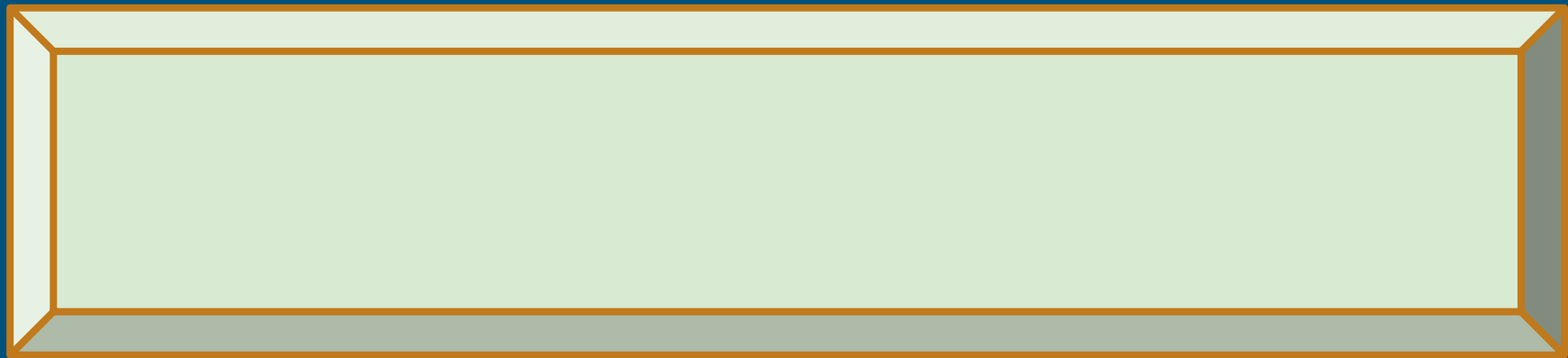
# ATTITUDE

Use of Resources



# ATTITUDE

Everyone... Everything... Everyday



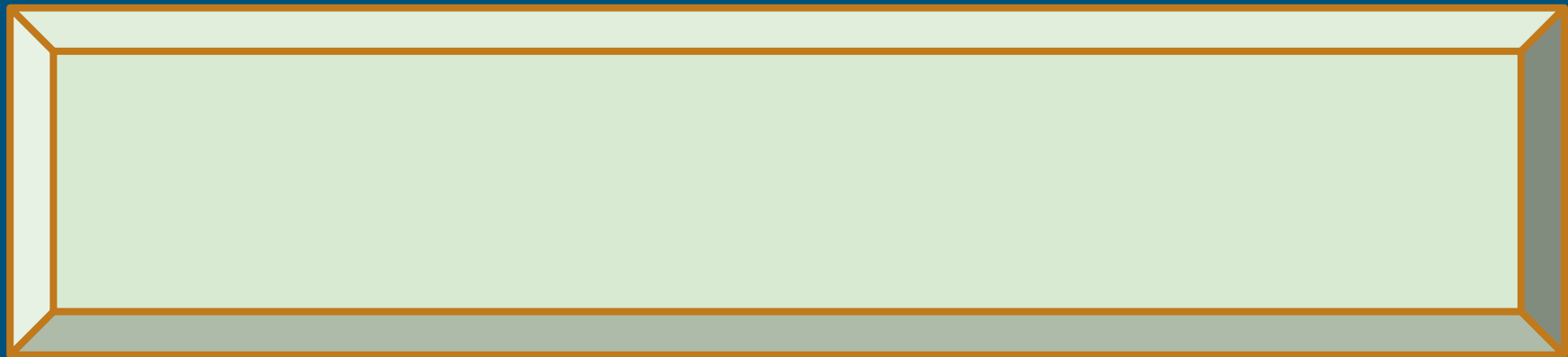
ATTITUDE

Decide



# ATTITUDE

Everyone... Everything... Everyday



# ATTITUDE

It's where we end...

Success will Begin and End with Attitude

Circumstances - we can't control.

Sickness - We can't control.

Our Attitude is on Us!