



# Writing the Book on Literacy

MARIETTA CITY SCHOOLS



**Marietta City Schools is committed to Literacy and Justice for All—ensuring that every student reaches their fullest reading potential by third grade, and thus giving thousands of children in Marietta a better chance of success in school and in life.**

In Marietta City Schools, we are working to ensure that all our teachers in every classroom, kindergarten through grade 3, have the training needed to be successful in implementing the Science of Reading with their students. Continuous professional development by leading researchers is coupled with coaching by top educators who model how the pedagogy looks in practice. At the district level, tremendous investments of time have led to the necessary changes in instruction, curriculum, and assessments.

The Literacy and Justice for All initiative, funded by the United Way of Greater Atlanta through support from the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation, was the catalyst for Marietta City School's embrace of the Science of Reading, and we are thrilled that our teachers, our principals, and our board share in the commitment to—and excitement around—this work.

The Marietta City Schools Board of Education has approved millions of dollars in investments in recent months to help in this work, including teacher supplements, new positions, and tutoring intervention programs.



## Teacher Supplements

The Marietta City Schools Board of Education approved a one-time \$5,000 supplement for any credentialed teacher or coach who provides direct reading instruction to students in grades PK-12.

## Teacher-Student Ratio (1:10)

MCS has hired 37 new full-time and/or part-time reading specialist positions for grades 1-5, with more specialists to come in the middle grades. These elementary positions aim to adopt an aggressive and innovative reading model not seen in public school districts across the region or nation. We will provide a 1:10 teacher-student ratio during an extended reading block for all students in grades 1-5 who are not reading on grade level.

## Tutoring Intervention Programs

Third-grade students who scored below grade level or below the midpoint on the fall MAP test have been offered free after-school tutoring three days a week. Certified teachers are providing tutoring at each MCS elementary school. This program includes food, post-tutoring care, and transportation for students. Additional tutoring programs take place during school breaks.



Watch and learn more



**"There is nothing better than seeing a child's eyes light up when they read their first book and knowing you helped make that happen."**

-MICHELLE FAHEY, READING TEACHER AT WEST SIDE ELEMENTARY



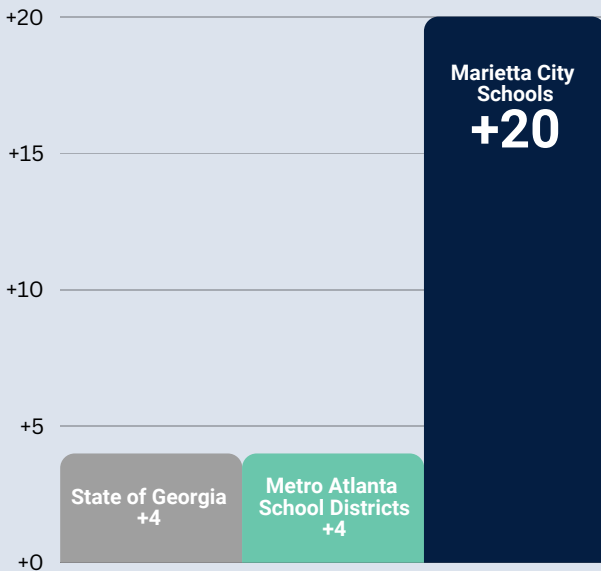
# Closing the Literacy Gap

AT MARIETTA CITY SCHOOLS



## Georgia Milestones 3rd Grade Reading

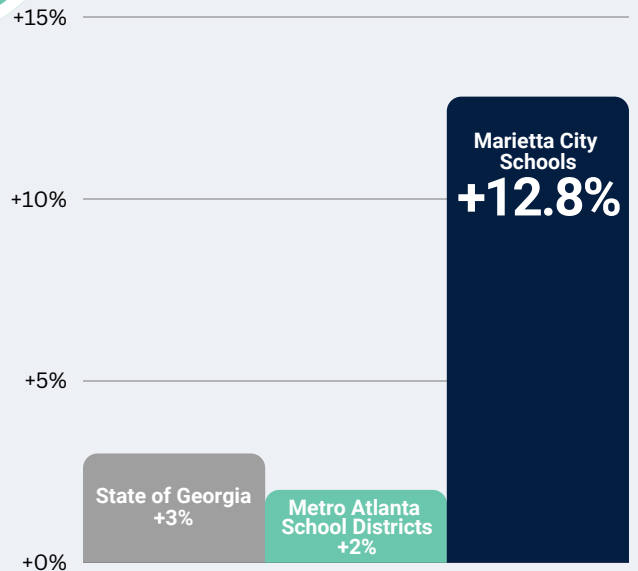
Spring 2022 to Spring 2023  
Mean Scale Score



MCS third-grade reading scores  
**5x**  
higher than the state of Georgia and the metro Atlanta area

## Georgia Milestones 3rd Grade Reading

Spring 2022 to Spring 2023  
Proficient/Distinguished



### Remarkable Growth

The data demonstrates an extraordinary leap in third-grade mean scale scores, soaring 20 points from 498 in 2022 to 518 in 2023. This remarkable growth rate outperforms state and Metro Atlanta gains.

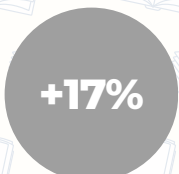


### Major Gains

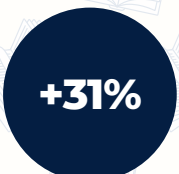
MCS achieved a remarkable 12.8% gain in students performing at the "Proficient" and "Distinguished" achievement levels in third-grade reading on the Georgia Milestones.

## MAP Growth (NWEA) 3rd Grade ELA

2nd Grade (Spring 2022) vs. 3rd Grade (Spring 2023) Increase in Percentage of Students Reading At or Above Grade Level



All Students



English Learner Students



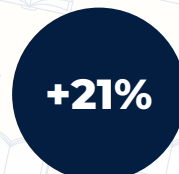
Hispanic Students



Economically Disadvantaged Students



Students with Disabilities



Multiracial Students



Black Students



White Students

"We needed to believe in and follow the research about how to develop the reading brain. We invested in our educators, and the results are clear: Our efforts are not just closing the literacy gap; they're striving to eliminate it."

- DR. GRANT RIVERA, MCS SUPERINTENDENT