

November 8, 2018

To the Board Members of Hillsdale County ISD,

I would like to share with you my appreciation for the EBLI training I received last year through the ISD. As a resource room teacher, whom last year, worked with K-6 students and this year K-5 students, I found EBLI to be applicable for all of my students. As with most resource room teachers, I have students with a wide range of abilities and learning difficulties. In the past year of using EBLI, I have not found a student who isn't able to benefit and grow from using the program.

After my training last November, I came back to my building and sang the songs of praise to my administration and based on last year's training, our district now has EBLI trained teachers K-4, middle school ELA teacher and our Reading Specialist. (Our 5th grader teacher will be getting trained online.) Having that continuum through the building up to high school has been energizing to say the least. Walking into classrooms and hearing students using EBLI strategies at "non-EBLI" times, is so exciting.

Unfortunately, we had a change in our middle school high school special education teacher this school year and she has not had EBLI training. The students that I started EBLI with last year, were disappointed to learn that it was not on their agendas for this school year. The students, truly, no hyperbole, love it. They feel successful with it and they are successful with it.

Below are some of my Aimsweb scores that reflect the impact that EBLI has had. The eligibilities of these students include a child with Autism, one with Specific Learning Disability and 3 with Cognitive Impairments. The great thing is, these students are not great test takers for a variety of reasons. If the following scores reflect growth, imagine what their actual, in the classroom performance levels are.

Aimsweb Reading Scores

current grade	Starting ORF-Benchmark Fall 2017		Latest Progress Monitoring 2018	
	Scale Score	%ile	Scale Score	%ile
3	5	1	19	9
3	* 16	*2	33	6
4	30	5	68	9
4	14	2	**30	**5
5	55	5	**76	**25

*Spring score

** leveled assessment

So, thank you for denting the ISD budget to provide EBLI training across the county. The generous continuation of EBLI training would ensure the progress and success for our students with disabilities with their reading needs—now and in the future.

Many thanks,

Beth Tobey
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