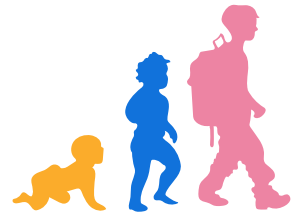




# BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS' STRATEGY ACCELERATES KINDERGARTEN READINESS



FALL 2022

BRIDGEPORT, CT

## The School Readiness Dilemma

The U.S. is facing an early literacy crisis: nearly half of students nationwide enter kindergarten without the reading and oral language skills needed to succeed academically. 88% of these students will not read proficiently by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. In Bridgeport, Ct. Public Schools, the challenges are even more dire since 79% of its students come from "high needs" backgrounds.

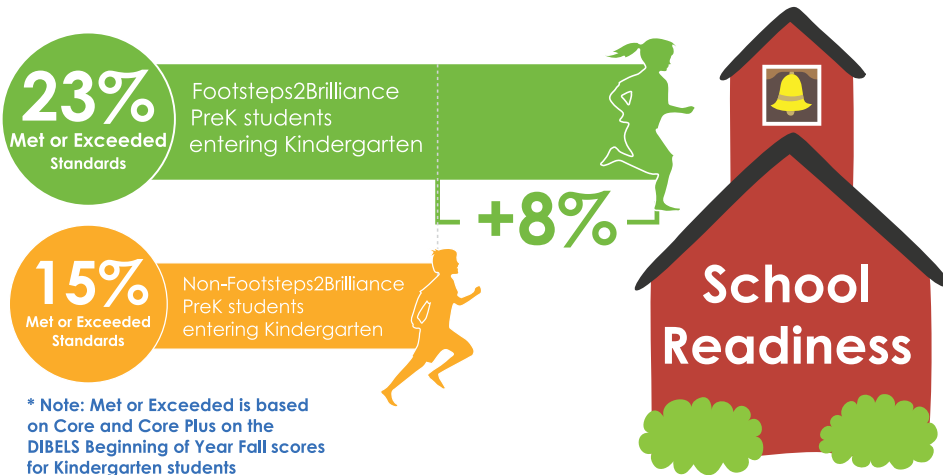
Superintendent Michael Testani selected Footsteps2Brilliance (F2B), a bilingual early literacy solution, to create **a proactive citywide model** for accelerating kindergarten readiness and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading proficiency. Footsteps2Brilliance is a standards-aligned, game-based solution available in English and Spanish that personalizes instruction and is available to students and their parents via their mobile devices. Testani's strategy included two phases: (1) to provide immediate PreK community support and (2) to spread this innovation into his K-3 classrooms. The results were impressive.

## The Bridgeport Strategy



## Results in Just 6 Months

Testani's vision yielded immediate results. In fact, a 2022 study of PreK students entering kindergarten (n=1,357) proved that students with F2B usage outperformed non-F2B students as documented by the Beginning of Year (BOY) DIBELS assessment. Specifically, 23% of F2B students "Met or Exceeded" DIBELS BOY milestones as compared to only 15% of non-F2B students.



## DATA SINCE 2022

**112,600,000+**  
Vocabulary exposure

**240,000+**  
Books read

**45,000+**  
Hours reading

**81%**  
Average comprehension

## SUPERINTENDENT TESTIMONIAL

*"23% of the kids that used Footsteps2Brilliance scored Core or above in DIBELS while 15% of the kids that did not use Footsteps2Brilliance scored Core or above."*

Michael Testani,  
Former Superintendent Bridgeport P.S.



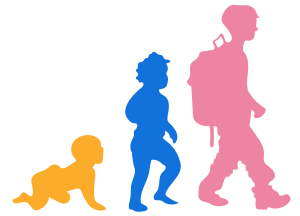
## DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

Enrollment	19,231
High Needs (F/R, EL, SWD)	79%
Black/African American	30%
Hispanic/Latino	56%





# BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS' STRATEGY ACCELERATES KINDERGARTEN READINESS

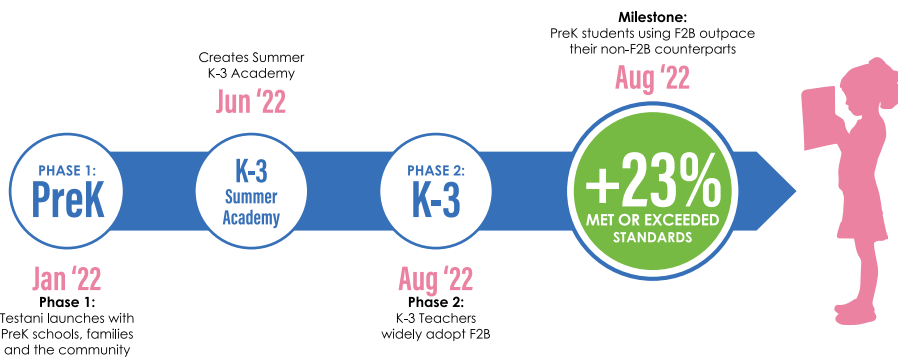


FALL 2022

BRIDGEPORT, CT

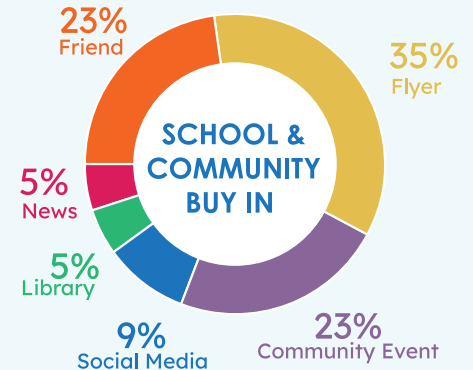
## Kindergarten Readiness Implementation

Testani prioritized his PreK students and community support. Without a proactive Kindergarten Readiness strategy, he understood that his district would face future underperforming 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading scores, costly remediation and disengaged dropouts. During Phase 1, Testani launched F2B throughout his PreK schools. In addition, he opened access to any families and community members who had PreK children—even if they were not enrolled in Bridgeport schools.



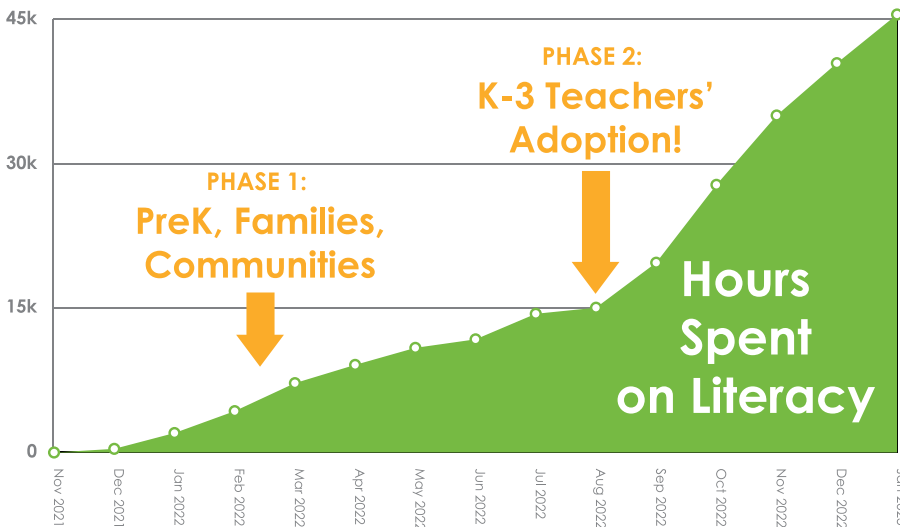
## Strategies for Spreading Innovation

How families are learning about the program.



## Spreading Innovation into the K-3 Classrooms

Understanding the importance of his K-3 teachers' buy-in, Testani piloted a Summer Academy to expand usage with an early-adopter group of K-3 teachers. A 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Summer teacher shared, "We piloted F2B this summer school and the activities were engaging. The students never complained about using the games and stories like other required sites." Based on initial success, Bridgeport has implemented Phase 2 to make F2B available to all K-3 teachers, and the district's usage has grown exponentially.



## Teachers Excited About Footsteps2Brilliance!



**9.2/10**



### Testimonials

*"Spanish speaking components will help families..."*

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher

*"Writing their own books and recording themselves reading will help my students."*

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher

*"I love that families will be able to use it as well."*

Kindergarten Teacher

*"Being able to see the data is helpful to support my students."*

PreK Teacher

Want to know more? [anna@footsteps2brilliance.com](mailto:anna@footsteps2brilliance.com)

