

Cuyuna Range Elementary School has made a commitment to increase our students' learning. Here is a progress note on just *one part* of our improvement plan that emphasized *communication skills*- reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking.

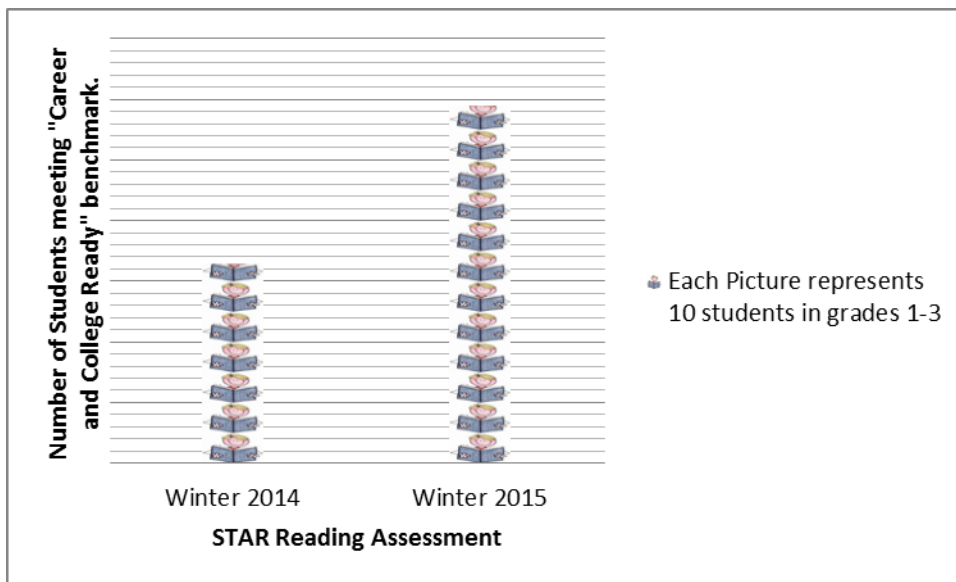
Step one: Grade K-3 teachers received new English language arts instructional materials strongly aligned to the Minnesota state English language arts standards.

http://education.state.mn.us/mdeprod/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=005238&RevisionSelectionMethod=latestReleased&Rendition=primary

Step two: Grade K-3 teachers received coaching on implementing "Balanced Literacy". The purpose of balanced literacy instruction is to provide students with a differentiated instructional program which will support the reading and writing skill development of each individual from below to exceeding grade level. The program includes a balance of time and attention to all aspects of communicating- reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking.

Step three: Grade K-3 teachers and students worked (and continue to work) HARD on reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking about communication daily.

Step four: Grade 1-3 students are seeing an increase in proficiency and growth in their STAR Reading Assessment. We compared winter scores prior to the change to this year's data, see below for a visual of the scores. (Grade K uses an early literacy assessment).



Step five: We will extend our focus on communication skills. We celebrate the hard work the teachers and students are doing in grades K-3. It is supported by the increase in student proficiency indicated by the STAR winter screening data. We will continue to align our efforts for grades K-3 Balanced Literacy, using our new curriculum, through the 2015-2016 school year. We will also be extending our focus to include grades 4-6 in Balanced Literacy, using a new curriculum, for the 2015-2016 school year.