In 2003, Arkansas City Public Schools were not meeting their literacy goals—almost half of their high school learners were scoring below standard, and scores among elementary students were inconsistent from school to school. In need of a dramatic transformation, Arkansas City Public Schools turned to Catapult Learning’s Literacy First program because of its proven track record in comprehensive, research-based literacy reform. Literacy First successfully established a consistent reading framework across the entire school district, from Pre-K to 12th grade.

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Effectiveness Across All Grade Levels

Arkansas City High School began using the Literacy First training customized to address reading skills across the content areas in 2005. At that time, only 55% of ACHS learners were scoring at “Meets Standard” or above on the Kansas Reading Assessment, but after the first year that number drastically increased to 89%. In the seven years since ACHS adopted Literacy First, more than 80% of learners have continued to meet or exceed the state standards.

C-4 Elementary School began Literacy First in 2003. Although 70% of their learners were meeting the state standards in reading, there was still room for improvement—10% of students were in “academic warning.” Using the Literacy First program, C-4 Elementary accomplished their goal in 2011 when 100% of their learners met the state standards in reading.