



LINDBERGH SCHOOLS IS ADOPTING A NEW PHONICS PROGRAM



In the 2018-19 school year, Lindbergh Schools (Lindbergh) piloted five phonics programs: (1) Wilson Foundations, (2) Lucy Calkins' Units of Study in Phonics, (3) Fountas & Pinnell's Phonics, Spelling, and Word Study System, (4) Winsor Learning's Souday System Essentials, and (5) Pearson's Words Their Way. After piloting these programs in Kindergarten and Grade 1 classrooms across the district, Lindbergh is adopting **Winsor Learning's Souday System Essentials** as its early elementary phonics program starting in the 2019-20 school year.

The decision to implement Souday System Essentials (Souday System) across the district was based on:

- The results from **surveys** of Lindbergh teachers and students on the piloted phonics programs;
- An **analysis of student achievement data** during the 2018-19 school year; and
- A **review of research** on the effectiveness of the piloted phonics programs and their underlying philosophies.

Hanover Research, an independent research organization based in Arlington, VA, supported the district's evaluation of the four piloted phonics programs by designing, administering, and analyzing the teacher survey, reviewing the research base supporting each phonics program, and synthesizing the collective findings from the evaluation in this brief.

SURVEY RESULTS: SONDAY SYSTEM TOP-RATED PROGRAM BY LINDBERGH TEACHERS

TEACHER SURVEY RESULTS

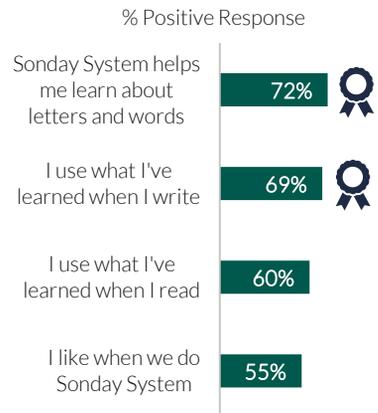
Teachers that piloted Souday System reported the highest level of satisfaction and support across most survey questions compared to teachers using the other piloted phonics programs.

- 70%** **Strongly Support** use of Souday Systems district-wide (100% somewhat or strongly support) 
- 80%** **Completely Satisfied** with Souday Systems (90% somewhat or completely satisfied) 
- 90%** **Very Easy** to implement Souday Systems (100% somewhat or very easy) 
- 100%** **Very Effective** for use with average students (100% moderately or very effective for students who struggle with reading and English language learners) 

 **Top Rated Program**

STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

Half or more of students that participated in Souday System reported positive opinions.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS

METHODOLOGY

Lindbergh used the FastBridge assessment in Winter 2018 and Spring 2019 to monitor student achievement and growth across a range of literacy skill areas. Results identified students at high-, some, or low-risk for reading challenges.

RESULTS

No single phonics program emerged as the most effective. Souday System, however, was among several programs associated with positive growth in students' reading skills. For example, all Souday System classrooms experienced decreases in students identified as having high or some risk related to decodable words, letter sounds, and onset sounds, with some Souday System classrooms showing the highest growth within their school building.

RESEARCH ON SONDAY SYSTEM

PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

None of the piloted programs have extensive, independent research studies on their effectiveness. However, several studies examine the **Orton-Gillingham (OG)** method, which is the basis for Souday System. For example, an analysis of the findings of multiple research studies found that OG-aligned programs had an overall positive effect on student learning.

ORTON-GILLINGHAM METHOD

The OG method was developed in the 1930s as a way to teach reading to students with dyslexia (difficulty in reading and identifying letter and word sounds). The principles of the OG method are now used in many classrooms to support reading. The method relies on **multisensory strategies** (visual, sound, movement) to help students make connections between letters, words, and sounds.

To learn more about the OG method visit www.orton-gillingham.com