



## Case Study

Little Rock School District



Grades K–5



English Language Learning

## Building Language and Literacy with Summer Programs

### Challenge

Little Rock School District (LRSD) needed a language-learning solution to support a summer program to build language proficiency and literacy skills for English Learners (ELs). The district's goal was to bridge English language learning from one academic year to another, leveraging faculty and instructional technology to deliver an effective program. LRSD sought a program that could support instruction aimed at building and expanding English-language proficiency among students identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP). Seeking a program appropriate for kindergarten through fifth-grade learners, the district wanted to enhance classroom instruction, catering to the needs of ELs. Using the state's English Language Proficiency (ELP) Curriculum as the basis of instruction, LRSD sought a solution that could provide additional vocabulary and grammatical structures for learners building toward increased skill development and confidence. In addition, to quantify growth, LRSD administered pretests and posttests using the Oral Language Acquisition Inventory 2 (OLAI2).

### Implementation

LRSD implemented the Rosetta Stone® solution for over 250 students during a summer program designed to boost English-language development and literacy skills. The language and literacy camp was structured around a language-learning intervention program called Camp Can Do! During its fourth year of implementation, the district leveraged Title III funding to offer a full-day, four-week program, giving students access to Rosetta Course® to improve language skills. To supplement the language classroom, students used the program every morning during instructional periods. In addition, students were given the opportunity to study with the program in a lab environment twice each week for 30 minutes of study per session. To track progress, LRSD administered the OLAI2 assessment to measure the effectiveness of the program. The administrative tool, Rosetta Stone Manager™, was used to monitor and manage learner progress.

### Benefits

LRSD has realized the following benefits from implementation of the Rosetta Stone solution:

- Over 75% increase in student scores on OLAI2 during the four-week program supporting growth in language and literacy
- Increase in student confidence to speak with others in the camp and in mainstream classrooms during the academic school year
- Increase of 52% in grammar skills, 43% in listening skills, and 32% in vocabulary skills, based on student performance on curriculum activities



### At a Glance:

The Little Rock School District operates 30 elementary schools (pre-K–5), seven middle schools (6–8), five high schools (9–12), and two early-childhood centers (pre-K), a career-technical center, an accelerated-learning center, and two alternative-learning centers. Approximately 3,700 people work toward the goal of educating more than 26,600 students. The mission of the Little Rock School District is to equip all students with the skills and knowledge to realize their aspirations, think critically and independently, learn continuously, and face the future as productive contributing citizens. This mission is accomplished through open access to a diverse, innovative, and challenging curriculum in a secure environment with a staff dedicated to excellence and empowered with the trust and support of our community.

*"The Rosetta Stone solution allowed us to provide the perfect opportunity for our learners to experience self-paced language learning and monitoring for success. Additionally, it allowed the integration of technology and capitalized on student interests."*

— Dr. Karen Broadnax  
**Director ESL Program,  
Little Rock School District**

### **Creating a camp environment**

LRSD wanted to create a four-week summer program for students identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP) to build English-language skills. The goal of the program was to create a learning environment that would be differentiated from the traditional mainstream-classroom environment that ELs experience during the academic year. With a focus on building language and literacy, the district built a four-week program targeting learners from over 15 of the 30 elementary schools in the district. Emphasizing a camp theme, the school was transformed into a camp environment. The atmosphere was established from the moment children set foot on the campus. Entering a vine-filled hallway, the theme continued into the cafeteria where students and staff gathered for daily camp meetings around a faux campfire before trekking to their individual classroom campsites. Learners spent mornings focusing on building and enriching language skills. During the afternoons, students participated in enrichment activities that included art, music, computers, physical education, dance, drama, and science. This gave learners an excellent opportunity to use their English-language skills in different learning environments. At the end of the program, students participated in the Camp Can Do! finale, sharing their accomplishments with parents, community, and district staff. Every student received a backpack filled with books to encourage continued literacy development during the remaining summer months.

### **Implementing for success**

The district required campers to use the Rosetta Stone® solution daily during the morning sessions, over a four-week period of instruction, to build and enrich English-language skills. As Dr. Karen Broadnax, ESL program director of Little Rock School District, stated, "The Rosetta Stone solution allowed us to provide the perfect opportunity for our learners to experience self-paced language learning and monitoring

for success. Additionally, it allowed the integration of technology and capitalized on student interests."

Teachers blended and incorporated learning from Rosetta Course® into the classroom. Students were also given the opportunity to expand study during scheduled whole-class language labs, facilitated by two Rosetta Stone-trained instructional-technology assistants. Of the 30 elementary schools in the district, LRSD targeted the school campuses with the highest percentage of EL enrollment. Over 85% of the participants at Camp Can Do! came from households where Spanish is the primary language. To help ensure effective implementation, the administrative tool, Rosetta Stone Manager™, was used to monitor and manage learner study. In addition, the district administered the OLAI2 in a prelaunch and postlaunch environment to measure improved language and literacy of participants.

### **Structuring for success**

Beyond classroom instruction, several factors contributed to the success of Camp Can Do! To facilitate communication with parents/guardians, it was imperative that LRSD utilize bilingual front-office staff support. For languages other than Spanish, the district employed phone-based translation assistance to effectively communicate with all parents.

Teachers received over 24 hours of professional development in targeted teaching techniques specific to English learners and language development, including Rosetta Stone training. Teachers got hands-on experience in the student platform, and they received in-depth training for accessing student reports to monitor student usage and progress. Beyond providing onsite technical assistance, the instructional-technology assistants served as liaisons between teachers and district-level support.

Additionally, youth volunteers from the New Futures program provided support to teachers and staff.

Through Title III and US Department of Agriculture funding, the school was not only able to pay for the program but also for breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snacks for participants.

### **Realizing benefits**

LRSD utilized the OLAI2 assessment to measure language skills before and after participation in the summer program. The district found that over 75% of participants improved their scores on the assessment at

the end of the four-week period. In addition, learners exhibited increased confidence to speak English with teachers, staff, and other learners during the program—confidence which carried into the mainstream classroom during the academic school year.

LRSD saw increases in skills as measured by performance on Rosetta Stone curricula activities. The district realized a 52% increase in grammar skills, 43% increase in listening skills, and 32% increase in vocabulary skills among learners participating in the program.

### **About Rosetta Stone**

Rosetta Stone Inc. is the global leader in language-learning software. With 20 years of experience behind us, we're continuing to develop award-winning innovations that improve the lives of people and the operations of organizations every day.

Our proprietary, proven method leverages interactive technologies to replicate the immersion environment in which people learn their first language, and it activates each learner's natural aptitude for acquiring a new language regardless of language background.

We offer our clients scalable solutions for a variety of needs, from individual learners to single classrooms to entire organizations. Our solutions have been implemented in over 20,000 schools and in more than 17,000 private and public sector organizations, and they are used by millions of learners in over 150 countries throughout the world.

