



People for People Charter School's **Success** with Read Live



Philadelphia



Background

People for People Charter School serves a diverse population in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with 99% of students identified as economically disadvantaged and many students facing other challenges that impact learning. About one in three students qualify for special education services. The school fosters a supportive learning environment through a PBIS framework and uses an MTSS model to deliver targeted instruction. A key focus is improving literacy outcomes for all students, with growth measured by the PSSA (Pennsylvania System School Assessment).

About People for People Charter School

Location

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Grades

PK-8

Student Population

540+



The Literacy Gap

For many students at People for People Charter School, reading has been a long-standing barrier that affects their confidence, behavior, and learning in other subject areas. The school's Chief Innovation Officer, Dr. Ellen Wedemeyer, comments, "They say two years behind is at risk. I would kill for two years behind.... I would say we have maybe half of our seventh-grade students with an IEP reading at a first-grade level.... So we're saying it's never going to happen again.... We keep that gap closed now."

Read Live Implementation

Dr. Wedemeyer asked her team of special education teachers to pilot Read Live for ESY (Extended School Year) during the summer of 2025. "I had used it many times in the past, and I knew it could be a game changer for us," Dr. Wedemeyer says. The teachers were skeptical about implementing the program, but Dr. Wedemeyer reports that by week three, they were all already on board. Parents quickly got on board too. Dr. Wedemeyer explains that by the end of the fall trimester, parents who previously hadn't attended IEP meetings were attending and sharing things like...

"I'm hearing my child read aloud for the first time."

—Parent

of a student using Read Live

"I myself don't read, but now my child is reading to me the books that I couldn't read to him."

—Parent

of a student using Read Live

Results of Implementation



Growth

"The OT and the speech therapist and the psychs are saying, 'Wait a minute, something's going on, because we're testing these kids for re-evals and the data's looking different.' And I'm like, 'Already? ...It's only November—They only had five weeks [of Read Live] in the summer!'"

—Dr. Wedemeyer



Teamwork

"The IEP team is starting to feel like more of a team.... And I really do credit Read Naturally for helping us to make that shift because I don't think we could have gotten there without it.... I have the 22-year-olds, and I have the teachers who've been teaching for 25 years, and both of them are saying to me, 'We're in on Read Naturally.'"

—Dr. Wedemeyer



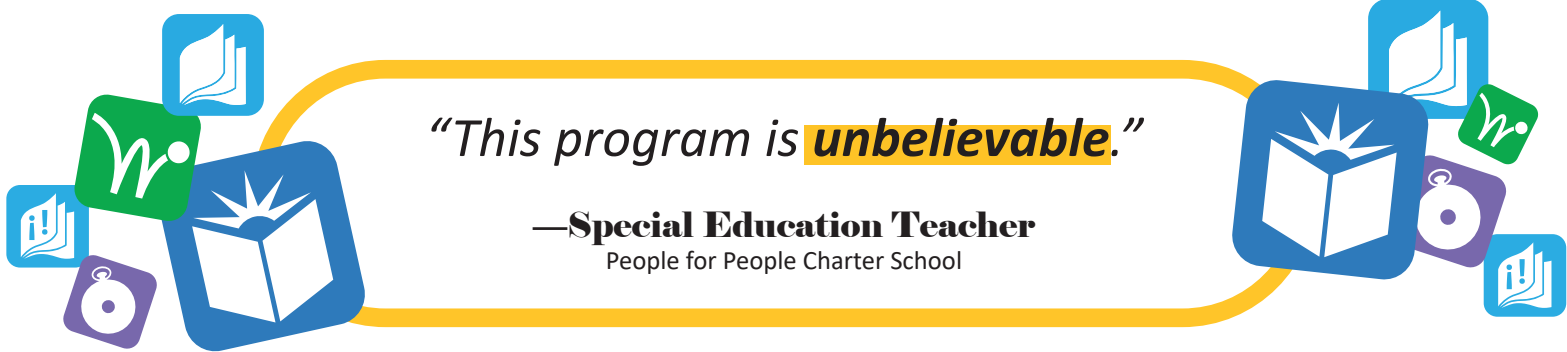
Confidence

"Read Live is really infusing confidence into students, and that confidence is going into other areas of their life. They're becoming more confident people because they can read. It's completely changing the way they see themselves."

—Dr. Wedemeyer

"This program is changing this little girl's life right now."

—Special Education Teacher



"This program is **unbelievable.**"

—Special Education Teacher
People for People Charter School

Conclusion

People for People Charter School's adoption of Read Live has brought meaningful, measurable improvements in student literacy outcomes. The program empowers teachers to deliver effective instruction and to communicate easily with the team and with parents. By fostering reading growth and confidence, Read Live is helping People for People Charter School's students achieve greater success not only in school, but at home and in their everyday lives. People for People Charter School plans to continue using Read Live as a central component of their reading intervention model.



Learn more about how Read Live can help your struggling readers and access a free 60-day trial!

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Access Peter's calendar to explore how you can bring the same success to your students: www.readnaturally.com/booking-peter

