

BUILDING STRONG READERS AND WRITERS

Through a Structured, Aligned Curriculum



School:	Persistence Preparatory Academy
Location:	Buffalo, NY
Grades Served:	K-8
No. of Students:	486

When Persistence Prep set out to strengthen literacy outcomes, leaders noticed a familiar pattern: students' experiences with reading and writing varied across classrooms and grade levels. Without a shared instructional throughline, learning was difficult to build consistently over time.

With support from Lavinia Group, a division of K12 Coalition, the school implemented RedThread Literacy—a structured curriculum rooted in the Science of Reading—alongside coaching and professional learning. Together, these supports made expectations clearer, brought classrooms into closer alignment, and created a more cohesive approach to teaching reading and writing.

The result: 23 percentage point growth in ELA proficiency after the first full year of implementation.



Challenge

Persistence Prep was working to strengthen a consistent, school-wide approach to literacy instruction, ensuring aligned teaching and learning across grades.

- There wasn't yet a shared vision for reading and writing from elementary through middle school.
- Students encountered varying expectations across classrooms, making it harder for skills and knowledge to build over time.
- Without a shared structure, using student work and data to inform next steps was inconsistent across teams.
- Instructional expectations varied across teams, making alignment across classrooms more challenging.

The school was looking for a solution that could bring structure, increase rigor, and create a more unified approach to literacy instruction.

Solution

RedThread Curriculum

- Implemented RedThread Knowledge across K-8 and RedThread Foundations in 3-5.
- Introduced a structured, literature-rich curriculum with clear standards alignment.



Instructional Coaching

- Leveraged the Rapid Improvement Cycle to support teachers in their lesson understanding and delivery.
- Built consistency in planning and delivery across classrooms.

Professional Learning

- Provided targeted professional learning to support rollout and implementation.
- Strengthened teacher and leader capacity in lesson planning, data use, and instructional rigor.

"Implementation of RedThread curriculum has been a game changer for our teachers, scholars, and academic program as a whole. The curricular and lesson plan structure provides teachers with clear structure and support, helping even our newest teachers plan intentional and impactful lessons. The curriculum also features meaningful writing tasks that have significantly strengthened student literacy outcomes. Our partnership with Lavinia Group and our on-the-ground consultant has helped strengthen both teacher and leader practice, offering a fresh set of eyes and targeted feedback on how to teach for transferability. RedThread has been a driving force in developing strong readers, thinkers, and writers."

—

JOELLE FORMATO
Founder and Head of School



Results

The partnership led to meaningful gains in both student outcomes and instructional practice:

- ELA proficiency increased by **23 percentage points** after the first full year

Beyond the Numbers:

- Teachers planned with greater clarity and confidence
- Students engaged more deeply with full texts and complex material
- Instruction became more consistent across grade levels
- Writing tasks became more rigorous and aligned to grade-level expectations

Across New York:

↑ **13** % point growth

RedThread partner schools saw 13 percentage-point growth, compared to 7 percentage points statewide.

"The reading of full texts and novels... I love how RedThread exposes students to topics and novels that are interesting to them. The texts truly support a love of learning while building strong literacy skills."

MOLLY F.
Teacher, Grades 3–5

Learn more at: laviniagroup.org

Success Factors



Clear, Structured Curriculum

RedThread provided a coherent framework that made expectations clear and actionable across classrooms.



Focus on Full Texts and Meaningful Content

Students read complete novels and rich texts, strengthening both comprehension and love of learning.



Aligned Support for Teachers and Leaders

Coaching and professional learning were grounded in the curriculum, giving teachers a shared way to plan and refine instruction.



Learn More

Discover how Lavinia Group can help your school or district strengthen literacy outcomes. Whether you're focused on curriculum, instruction, or leadership development, our team partners with educators to drive lasting results.

Visit lavinia.org to learn more.

