

# Double-Digit Literacy and Math Gains with Coaching and Curriculum Support

promise  academy

**Location:** Memphis, Tennessee

**Number of Students:** 600

**Number of Teachers:** 80

When Promise Academy's leadership set out to improve student outcomes in literacy and math, they knew it would take more than new materials—it would require deep instructional support. By partnering with Lavinia Group, a K12 Coalition company, the Memphis-based charter network focused on building internal capacity, strengthening instructional practices, and aligning curriculum across classrooms.

**The result:** 34 Percentage Point Math Gains, 20 Percentage Point Reading Growth, and Reward School Status



## Challenge

**Promise Academy, a charter network serving primarily underserved communities in Memphis, was struggling to improve academic outcomes despite dedicated staff and long hours.**

"We were doing the work, but just not the right work."

—  
KIMBRA MCBRIDE  
Chief Academic Officer,  
Promise Academy

- The schools consistently performed at Level 1 in both ELA and Math, with students reading and performing below grade level.
- Instructional practices varied widely, and previous curriculum solutions failed to meet the needs of students, particularly those requiring foundational support.
- School leaders needed a partner who could not only provide curriculum solutions but also build the capacity of coaches and teachers to use data effectively and deliver high-quality instruction.

# Solution

---

## Coaching and Capacity Building

- Provided deep coaching for leaders, instructional coaches, and teachers.
- Developed ELA and Math coaches with the ability to identify teacher growth areas and design individualized coaching plans.
- Established effective data cycles and built teacher capacity to adjust instruction based on real-time data.



## Curriculum and Professional Learning

- Rolled out Close Reading, Test Preparation, and scaffolded the introduction of the ELA curriculum.
- Supported teachers and leaders through Lavinia Group Institutes and job-embedded professional development.
- Integrated high-interest, relatable texts that reflected students' experiences to boost engagement.

"Lavinia Group changed the academic culture of our school. They gave us consistency, tools, and built capacity not just for teachers, but for coaches, leaders, and students alike."

—  
TIFFANY SMITH  
Instructional Coach, Promise Academy



# Results

- Reading proficiency increased by 20 percentage points in one year.
- Math proficiency increased by 34 percentage points in the same year.
- Spring Hill campus moved from Level 1 to Level 5 in both ELA and Math growth.
- In 2024, average proficiency across all grades rose by 7.85 percentage points, surpassing county and state growth averages.
- 3rd graders across both campuses—students using Lavinia Group methods since 1st grade—showed standout growth, with an average 21 percentage point increase year-over-year.
- Promise Academy Hollywood was recognized as a Tennessee Reward School for 2023–2024.

## Reading Proficiency

↑ 20 % points  
in 1 year

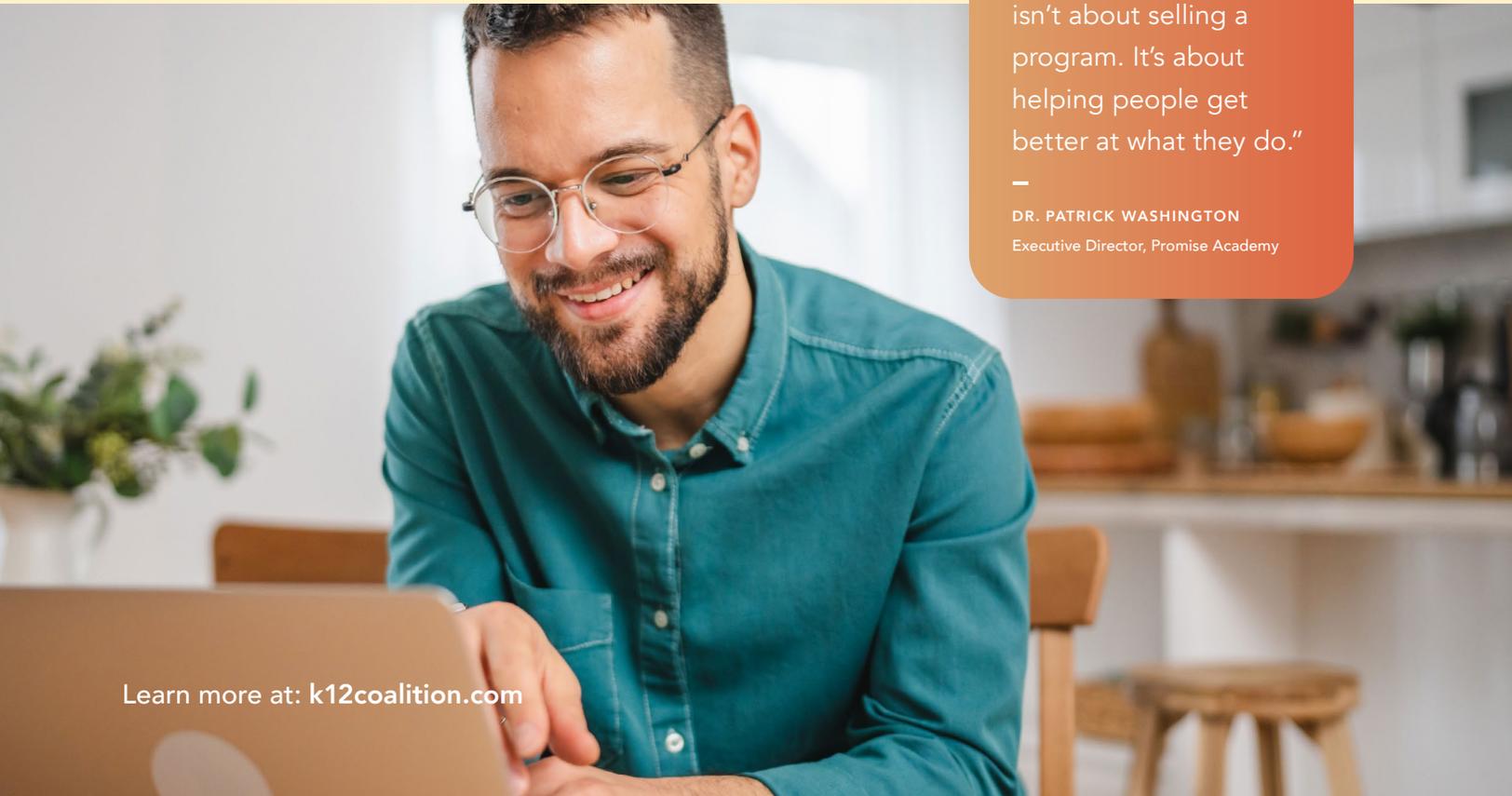
## Math Proficiency

↑ 34 % points  
in 1 year

Beyond the numbers, Promise teachers began proactively requesting coaching, and students demonstrated greater engagement, annotating texts and applying new learning strategies independently.

“The work with the Lavinia Group has made a dramatic change. In one semester, we saw double-digit gains in reading and math growth. Our partnership isn’t about selling a program. It’s about helping people get better at what they do.”

—  
DR. PATRICK WASHINGTON  
Executive Director, Promise Academy



# Success Factors

---



## Sustainable Capacity Building

Lavinia Group's focus on developing leaders and instructional coaches created a culture of continuous improvement, ensuring long-term sustainability.



## Collaborative Partnership

Rather than delivering one-size-fits-all solutions, Lavinia consultants worked side by side with Promise staff, tailoring approaches to the specific needs of the schools and students.



## Meaningful, Student-Centered Curriculum

Using texts and topics that reflected students' backgrounds and interests helped create deeper connections to learning and fostered stronger engagement in the classroom.



### HEAR DIRECTLY FROM PROMISE ACADEMY

Scan or click the QR code to view a short video featuring school leaders and educators sharing their experience working with Lavinia Group and the impact it has had on their students, staff, and school culture.

## Learn More

Discover how K12 Coalition can help your school or district achieve measurable growth. Whether you're looking to improve instruction, build leadership capacity, or align curriculum, our team partners with educators to drive lasting results.

Visit [k12coalition.com](https://k12coalition.com) to explore our services or contact us to start a conversation.

