



FASTALK IMPACT IN LOUISIANA

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During the 2018-2019 school year, Family Engagement Lab partnered with the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to pilot a family engagement tool, FASTalk. FASTalk sends parents text messages with at-home literacy activities aligned to what students are doing in the classroom in the ELA Guidebooks, grades 3-5.

TEACHERS SENT MORE THAN 31,000 FASTALK MESSAGES TO 994 PARENTS!

PARENT AND TEACHER FEEDBACK

Family Engagement Lab recently surveyed teachers and parents participating in the FASTalk pilot.

100% OF PARENTS SURVEYED INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO GET FASTALK MESSAGES NEXT YEAR. NEARLY ALL REPORTED THAT FASTALK BENEFITS THEIR CHILD’S LEARNING!

Parents reported additional benefits of the weekly text messages, such as:

- **increased confidence** in supporting their child’s learning at home;
- **more time** spent helping their child with reading and writing activities; and
- **enhanced communication** with their child’s teacher.

“It made me more knowledgeable of what my child was learning so that I can help her at home.”

- Jefferson Parish Parent

NEARLY ALL TEACHERS INDICATED THAT THEY WANTED TO USE FASTALK AGAIN NEXT YEAR, AND ARE SEEING THE BENEFIT OF IMPROVED PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION.

Teachers reported additional benefits of the weekly text messages, such as:

- **alignment** of the literacy activities to the curriculum;
- **easy set-up** process; and
- **little to no time** spent on sending the text messages each week.

“I love the activities that were sent to the parents... It gives the parents something quick to help them participate with their child’s education.”

- Calcasieu Parish Teacher

NEXT STEPS FOR FASTALK IN LOUISIANA

- After a successful pilot in 2018-2019, Family Engagement Lab will continue to work with the LDOE to **offer FASTalk to students with disabilities** within the SPDG cohorts in 2019-2020.
- Additionally, **FASTalk is available to support all students next year** by complementing the following Tier I curriculum: EL, CKLA, ARC, Wit & Wisdom in K-2, and ELA Guidebooks in grades 3-5.
- Furthermore, we’re making FASTalk even easier for teachers! This fall, **teachers will have greater flexibility and ease in adjusting the pacing of the messages** to better align to their lesson plans.

For more information, contact Vidya Sundaram at vidya@fastalk.org or 650-283-9779.