

The Digital Difference:
One District's Roadmap
to Increasing Reading
Equity



Sora
The student reading app

Meet the Presenters



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Goal

Fall 2022

Promote reading among
middle and high school
students!



Why Sora & OverDrive?

The Sora App:



- Declining ACT Reading scores
- Recognized the need for more eBooks and audiobooks
- Sora was FREE with a rotating collection filtered by age appropriateness.
 - We were unsure if this resource would increase circulation.
- Support goals of BCBE Secondary Literacy Strategic Plan
- OverDrive allowed us to build and tailor the collection to student needs and interests.
- OverDrive powers the public library connection with our library cooperative.

Building an Equitable eLibrary

Role of the District:

- Partnership with the public library cooperative to share entire eBook and audiobook resources from public libraries.
- Gained technology approval and managed the integration.
- Facilitated training of library media specialists
- Promoted the resource with library media specialists and English department chairs



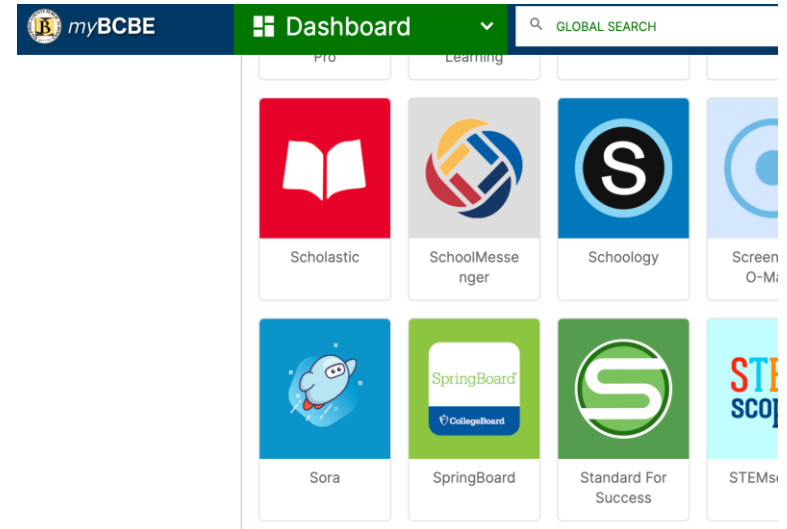


Continuing to Build Our Collection

- High school and middle school librarians decided to combine their collections to give students more options.
 - Each librarian allotted \$3 per student of their state library enhancement fund to use toward OverDrive purchases.
 - This investment has continued for the last three school years.
 - Each individual librarian selects titles, prepares their purchase requests, and pays invoices.
 - One librarian manages high school purchases and another manages all middle school purchases. We are there to help district librarians with any part of the process.

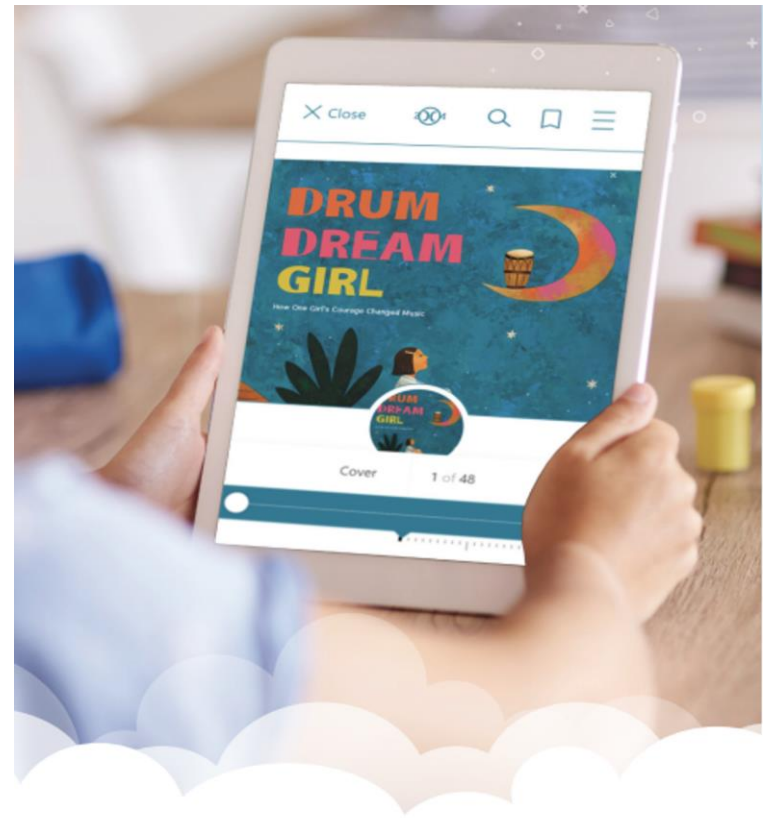
Student and Teacher Promotion

- The SORA app was added to student dashboards where all their apps are located.
- Librarians visited all English classes to introduce SORA and demonstrate usage.
- Posters provided by SORA were displayed throughout hallways.
- Students were encouraged to use the SORA Mobile App.

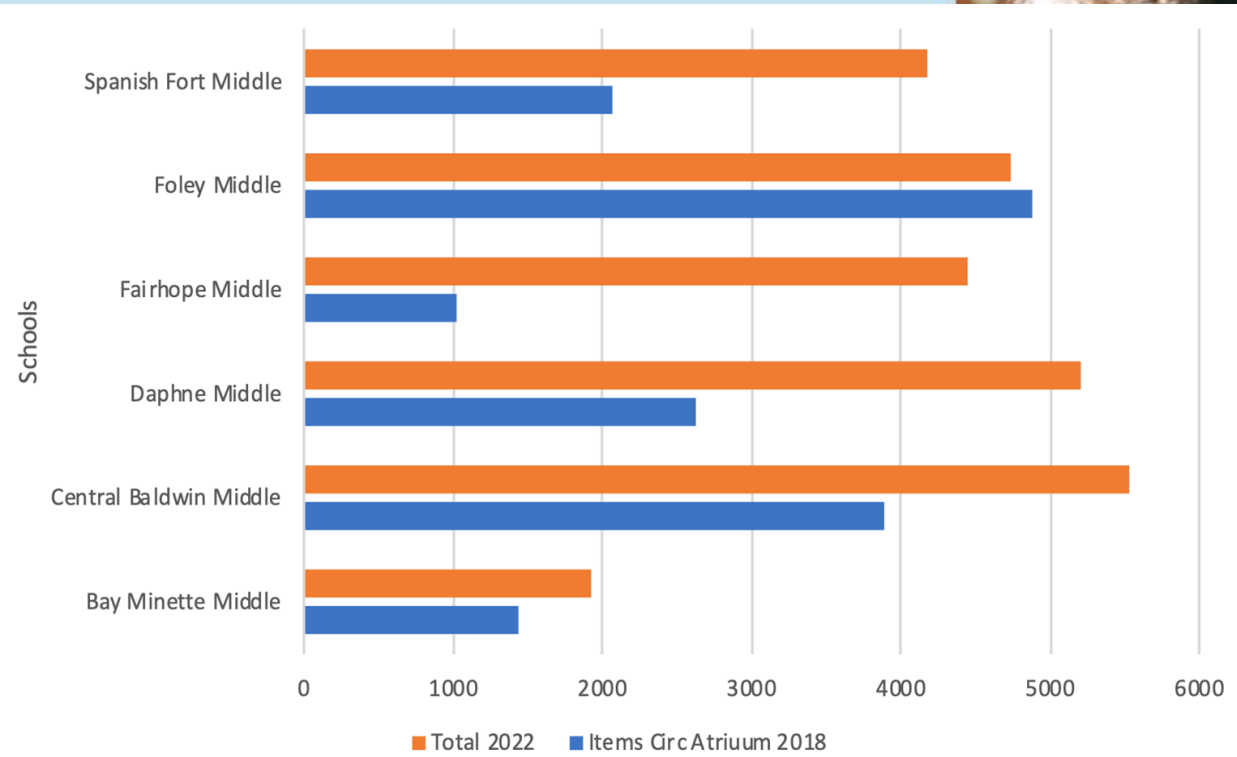
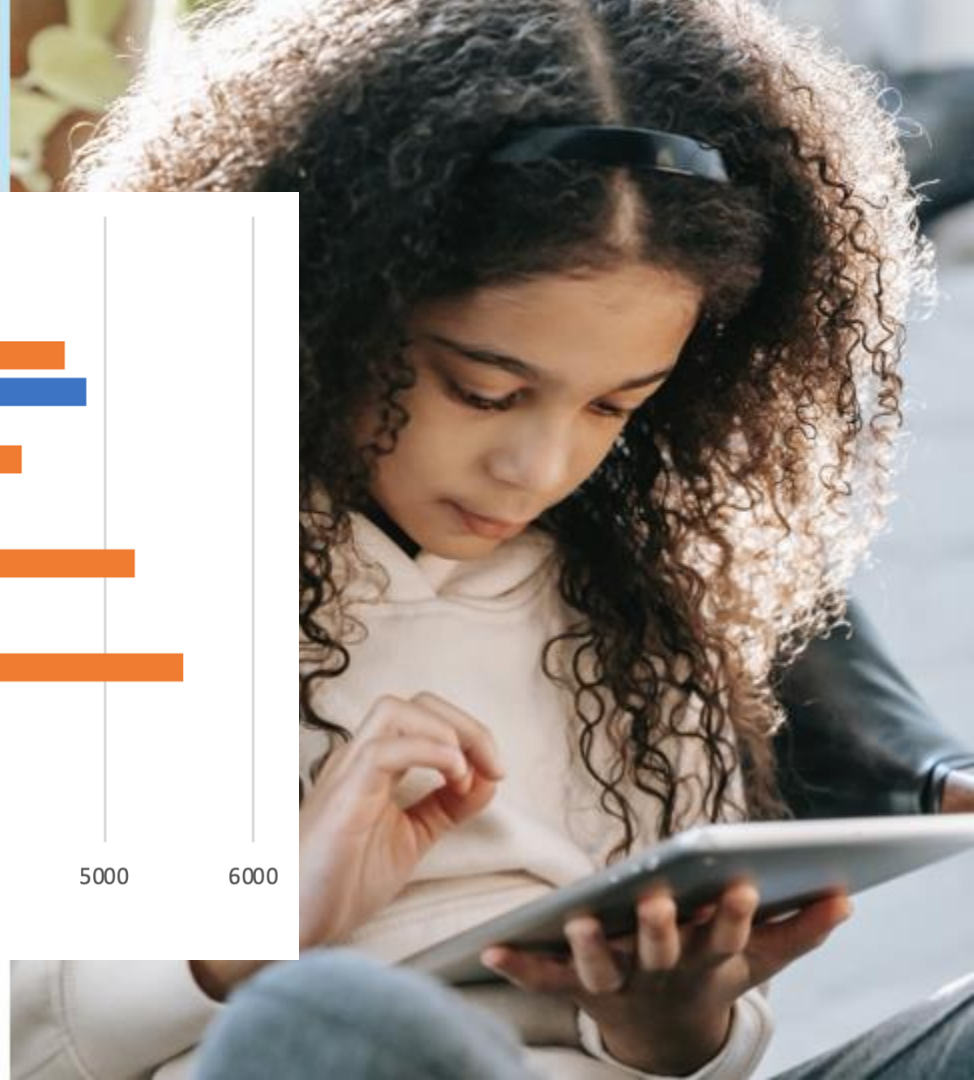


Student & Teacher Engagement

- Slow to start
- English teachers were key!
- Professional learning sessions at summer conference
- Promotion through the library media specialists
- Mobile App

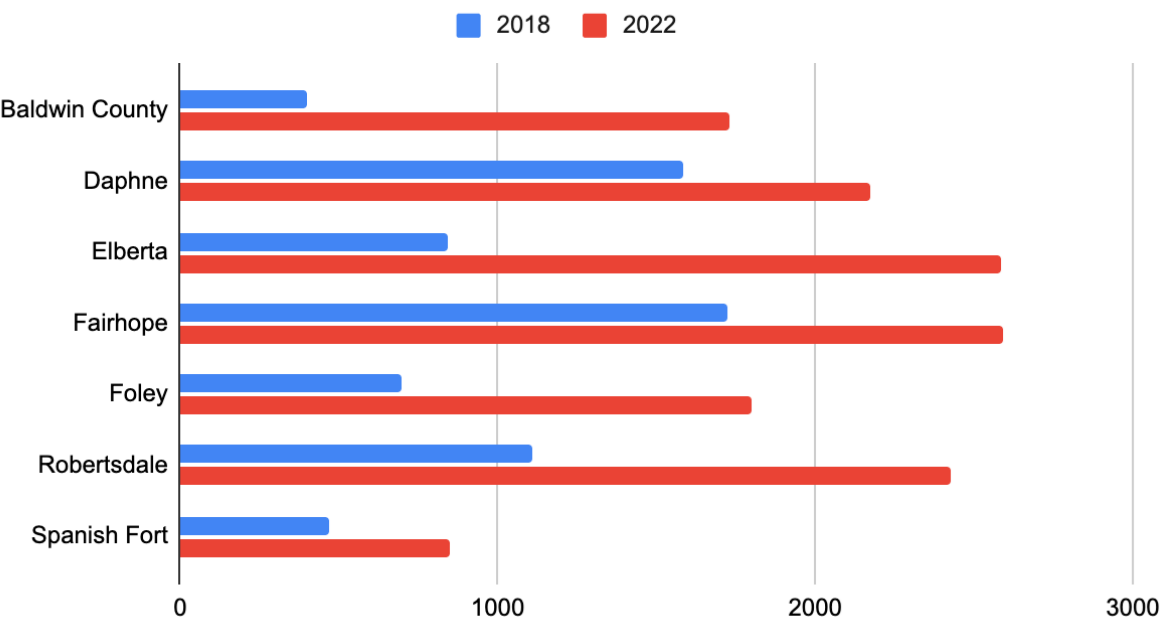


Middle School Usage Data & Results



High School Usage Data & Results

Baldwin County High Schools Circulation Comparison

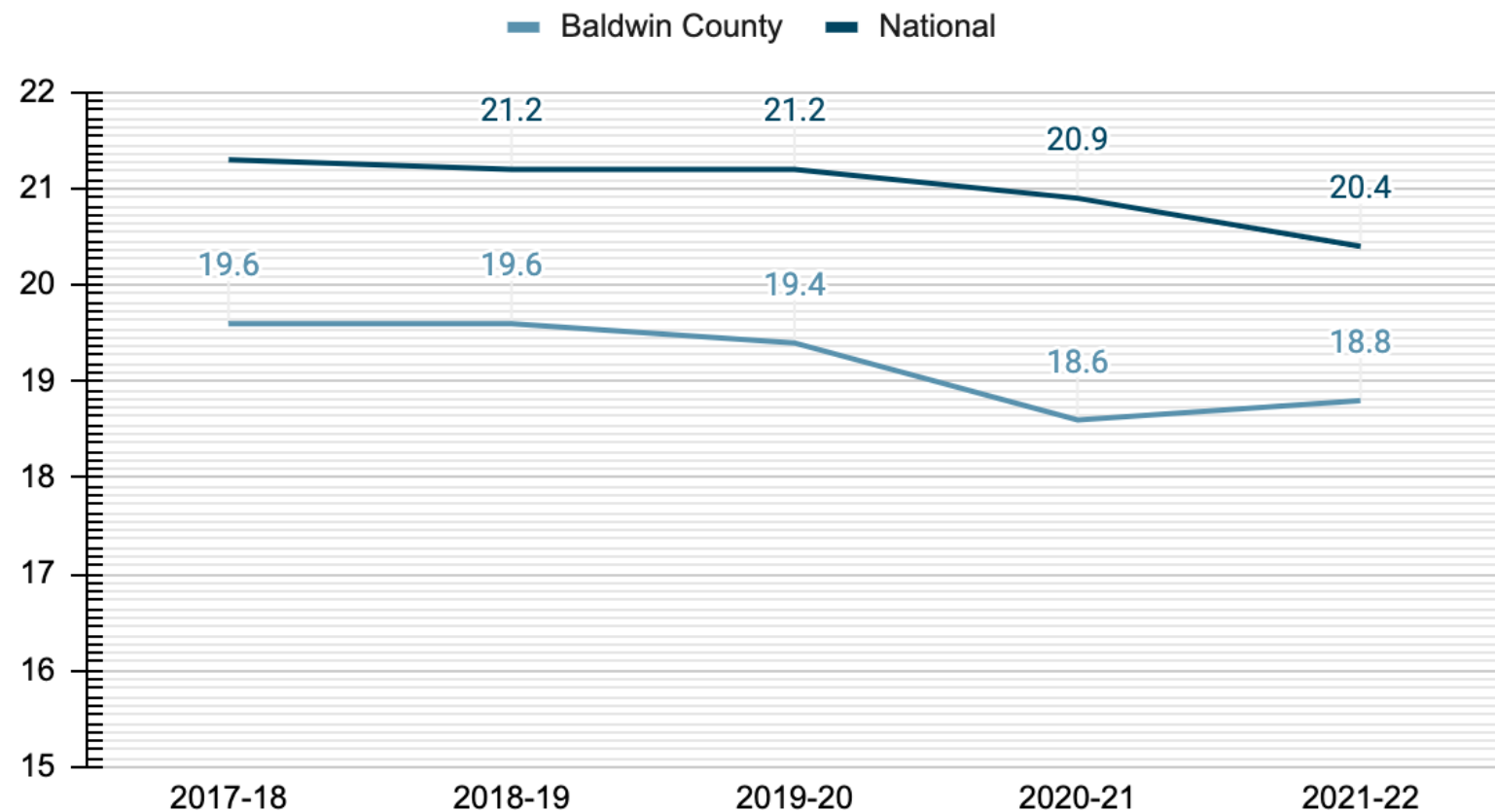


Assessment

Reading Data




Baldwin County vs. National - ACT Reading



Meeting students where they are to
provide access to engaging digital reading
content is vital.

Presenter Contact Information



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Questions?



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