



REACH



SUCCESS



SUCCESS STORY >

## BROOKLYN'S P.S. 229 REDUCES SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES WITH EAROBICS

### The Situation

Prior to their use of Earobics, approximately 10% of all kindergarteners at P.S. 229 in Brooklyn were referred to Special Education services for language-based learning difficulties. According to the New York City Board of Education, merely evaluating a small group of students for Special Education services can cost thousands, and once a child begins to receive services, the costs can be even greater, exceeding the per pupil expenditure for general education by twice as much or more.

In the face of costs like these, New York City Community School District 20 took action. In 1998, P.S. 229 began using Earobics to provide at-risk kindergarten students with pre-intervention services in an effort to reduce the number of students who required special education services.

Over the next three years, P.S. 229's kindergarten teachers identified a total of seventeen students at risk of language-based learning difficulties who would have been referred for Special Education services. Instead, these students worked with Earobics for an hour each week in the classroom during the regular school day, using its patented adaptive technology to receive instruction in the crucial skills that would prepare them to read successfully.

### Project Goals

1. Cost effective Pre-Interventions to reduce the number of students who require special education services.
2. Earobics can reduce the personal cost that can be exerted on a student who requires special education.



## Customer Profile

Public School 229 Dyker  
Brooklyn, NY

559 Students K-5

Asian	40%
Hispanic	8%
Black	1%
White	51%

## Products and Services

Earobics

## Key Benefits

Reduced special education referral by 100%



“...none of the at-risk children who participated in the Earobics pre-intervention program were ever referred for Special Education services. Period.”

## Solution

Earobics was selected to provide at-risk kindergarten students with pre-intervention services in an effort to reduce the number of students who required special education services.

## The Results

The results were impressive. To date, none of the at-risk children who participated in the Earobics pre-intervention program were ever referred for Special Education services. These students stayed in the regular education classroom and have been succeeding with the rest of students at P.S. 229, which leads Community School District 20 in reading test scores. Earobics helped P.S. 229 and Community School District 20 by serving as a safety net for those children who were at-risk of language-based learning difficulties, providing them with literacy support that builds the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

An analysis of the cost of referring and enrolling 17 children in Special Education reveals that Earobics may have saved Community School District 20 and P.S. 229 more than \$250,000. Moreover, this estimate accounts for only the district's savings to date. Children who are enrolled in Special Education tend to require additional support services throughout their school careers, so with each year that these 17 students continue to learn and succeed without additional support, the district's savings will continue to accrue.

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