



HUDSONWAY
IMMERSION SCHOOL

Evolution of an Immersion Program

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The Beginning....

Just over ten years ago as a mother of infant twins I wanted an environment that would best support their bilingual development...

thus began the first independent Mandarin immersion school in New Jersey and New York.



Our Mission

HWIS is an immersion preschool and elementary school that provides the best foundation for your child to succeed in the 21st century by fostering a love of learning while developing them into bilingual and bicultural students.

immersion



STEM



character development



Overview of HudsonWay Immersion School Today....

- Founded in 2005
- Full-time independent private day school
- Serve Preschool to 5th grades
- A full language immersion program model
- 200+ students at two campuses in New York City and New Jersey (Summit)
- Target languages by Campus:
 - NYC-Mandarin/English
 - NJ-Mandarin/English
 - NJ-Spanish/English
- Other programs – summer camp, afternoon preschool, after school K-5, mommy & me, summer camp abroad



Program Aspects that have Changed

	Then	Now
Branding	Bilingual Buds	HudsonWay Immersion School
Ages	Preschool	Pre-K through Grade 5
Languages	Mandarin	Mandarin and Spanish
Model	80:20 preschool, 50:50 K	90:10 preschool, 80:20 to 60:40 in K-5
Content areas	Math, science in both languages repeated	Math, science, social studies in both languages
Entry points	Throughout	Preschool, separate LEIP track
Teacher support	Curriculum coordinators	Master teachers
Benefits	Language proficiency	Cognitive, academic, language advantages
Leadership	ECE without immersion	Leadership experienced in immersion
Locations	Two schools	One school – two campuses



Challenge #1

Finding and developing administration

1. Few with immersion experience
2. Not enough administration experience
3. Public vs. private school mentality
4. Multiple language program
5. Pre-K vs. elementary
6. Multiple campus oversight
7. Succession planning



There is no single person who will have it all!



Combined 60+ years
experience in immersion



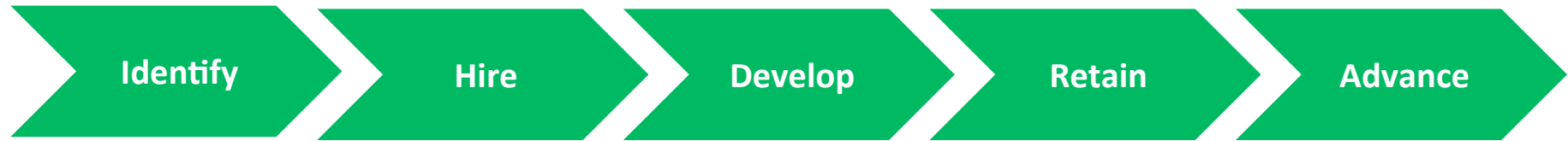
Challenge #2

Attracting, training and retaining teachers

1. Preschool teachers needed – but few with ECE background
2. Caring for preschool age – cultural differences abound!
3. Native Mandarin speaker/English language ability
4. Turnover - Visa issues/immigrant experience/prestige/growth
5. Culture and values alignment



How HWIS copes with challenges related to teachers



- Interns
- University partnership

- Education investment – Masters ECE
- Visa sponsorship – OPT, H1-B
- Relocation

- Professional Development
- Conferences
- Master teacher coaching
- Smaller class sizes

- Visa sponsorship
- Child tuition benefit

- Advancement opportunities
- Multiple location
- Leadership training



Challenge #3

Selling the proposition and managing expectations

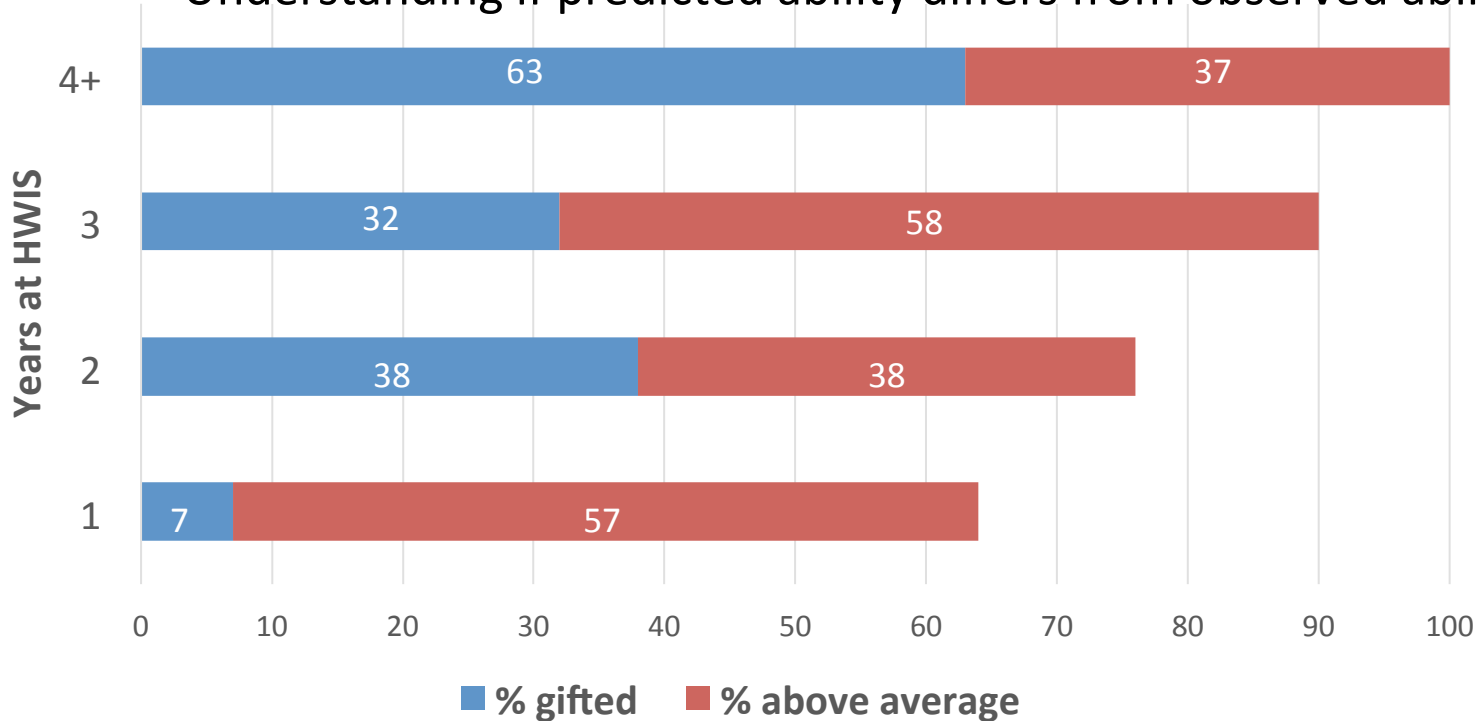
1. Selling new concept to broad audience
2. Addressing academic concerns
3. K-5 – where do students go after Grade 5?



CoGAT Assessment 2015-2016

NY & NJ (K-grade 5) *

- Measuring cognitive development
- Adapting instruction
- Understanding if predicted ability differs from observed ability



* 65 students



ERB results – Grade 5

Median Percentile Report



School: Hudsonway Immersion School

Grade: 5

Level: 5

Admin: Spring 2016

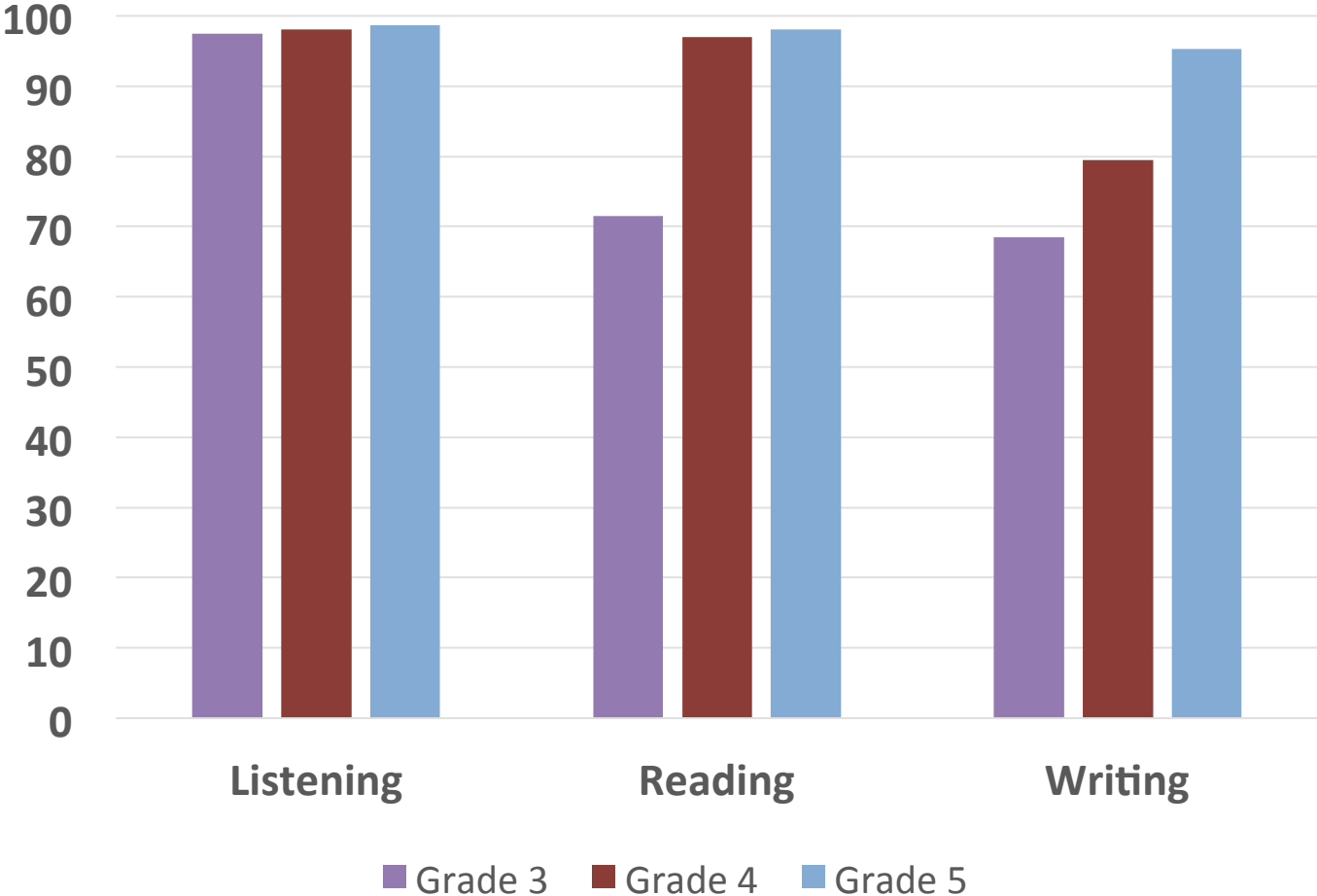
National Percentile Rank*



* National Percentile Rank of the median scale score of students in the grade, Suburban/Public school norm group and Independent school norm group.

(YCT) Youth Chinese Test Level 4 (NJ&NY)

Average over past 2 years



Final Thoughts

1. Addressing challenges requires a combination of strategies unique to each school's situation
2. Our program will continue to evolve as it faces new challenges

