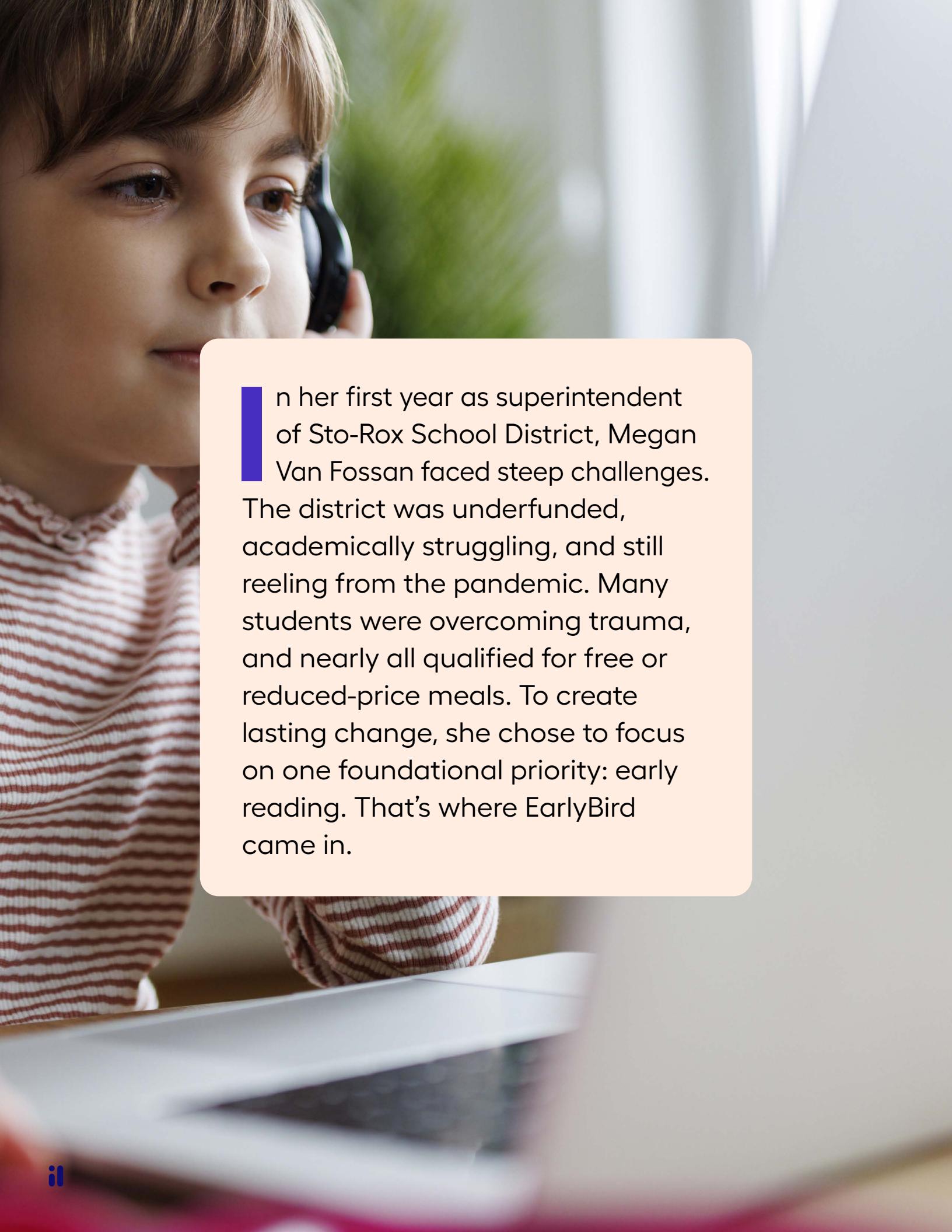


# Rethinking Reading in Sto-Rox

With the right tools, even under-resourced districts can make meaningful early literacy gains. EarlyBird helped Sto-Rox catch gaps early and close them fast.





In her first year as superintendent of Sto-Rox School District, Megan Van Fossan faced steep challenges. The district was underfunded, academically struggling, and still reeling from the pandemic. Many students were overcoming trauma, and nearly all qualified for free or reduced-price meals. To create lasting change, she chose to focus on one foundational priority: early reading. That's where EarlyBird came in.

## Laying the groundwork with EarlyBird

With EarlyBird\*, Sto-Rox gained the knowledge needed for earlier intervention. As the only PreK–2nd grade dyslexia screener and early literacy assessment that delivers real-time, actionable data, EarlyBird helped district leaders take ownership of learning gaps and respond with targeted support.

“If we’re not closing that achievement gap,” Van Fossan explained, “we have to own it, and we have to figure out why that is — and we need to get really good, strong interventions in place.”

With these insights, Sto-Rox teachers can now shape instruction from day one to meet every student’s needs.



**EarlyBird has given our kindergarten and first grade teachers the opportunity to design their instruction based on clear and, most importantly, meaningful data.**

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MEGAN VAN FOSSAN, SUPERINTENDENT, STO-ROX SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Creating engaged learners and informed teachers

EarlyBird’s game-based format turned literacy screening into a fun, low-stress experience for students. “What is so nice about this is it keeps kids’ interest,” Van Fossan noted. “My kids take their test, but they don’t know it’s a test because they’re playing with Pip and all the animals.”

**Why it matters:** When assessments feel like play, students stay focused — and teachers get more accurate data without adding stress.

But engagement was only part of the shift. Before EarlyBird, screening took weeks. “Holy moly,” Van Fossan said. “It took us two to three weeks to screen 180 kindergarteners. Literally, I could do it in three days now.” Today, Teachers receive real-time results and student groupings, enabling faster, more focused support. “We have better data today than we have ever had on kids,” she added.

**Why it matters:** Fast, reliable data gives teachers more time to teach — and act early when students need support.

*\*After this story was written, EarlyBird joined the Imagine Learning family of products as Imagine+ EarlyBird Screener.*



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