

# WORTH WATCHING

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## Kingswood Elementary: 2011 National Title I Distinguished School

*Presented by the NC Department of Public Instruction*

### TRANSCRIPT

The scene pans the front of Kingswood Elementary School and transitions to a scene where there is a crowd of Kingswood Elementary students sitting on the floor in the school's cafeteria singing, "I Believe I Can Fly." Students and staff clap while Title I teachers carry the National Title I Distinguished School banner across the front of the room.

Graphic: Kingswood Elementary  
2011 National Title I Distinguished School  
Cary, NC  
Wake County Schools

The next scene is of Sherry Schliesser, Kingswood Elementary principal, seated in an office.

Principal Sherry Schliesser: Kingswood is a very small school. We have 370 students and I have been able to convert positions to have extra staff here. So our adult to student ratio is very low.

Scene transitions to Teacher Assistant Wendy McNeece working with students, to Teacher Cathy Traccarella working with students, and back to Teacher Assistant Wendy McNeece working with students.

Scene transitions back to Sherry Schliesser in her office.

Principal Sherry Schliesser: And, with that, everyone who works here knows all the students' names. We know students when they come into kindergarten. We get to meet them and their families.

Scene transitions to D'Ann Dickerson teaching her 5<sup>th</sup> grade class.

Principal Sherry Schliesser: Really, when you combine that with digging deeper into the data, the student data, then you can see trends over time. At Kingswood, our Level IIs were progressing nicely; our Level IVs were stagnant or even going backwards. (Level II, below proficiency; III, proficient; IV, mastery)

Scene transitions back to Sherry Schliesser in her office.

Principal Sherry Schliesser: Two years ago, we were able to begin focusing in on our Level IVs, making sure that higher level questionings were used in every single classroom and also that these positions that we converted were channeled in the direction of **every** population that showed they needed additional help.

Scene transitions to Shelley McCaslin, 3-5 Title I teacher, seated in a classroom.

McCaslin: "Well, we really do a lot of digging deeper. We don't just say, "Well, generally I think they might need a little bit of help with this." Everything is based upon specific data and we spend a lot of time really focusing on the data that we do have, that we collect. So we're not just generalizing what typical 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at a certain time of year might have trouble with. We really do it specific to that child and that group of students.



Scene transitions back to Sherry Schliesser in her office.

Principal Sherry Schliesser: Our teachers have done extensive study on different types of active engagement. One of the single biggest drains in instruction is student apathy and technology is a great way to overcome that.

Scene transitions to students with clicker devices looking at and responding to an interactive whiteboard in Title I Teacher Krystal Ramirez's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class.

Principal Sherry Schliesser: I've not found elementary school students who don't light up when a SMARTboard is turned on. Every hand can be up while they wait patiently for one of their classmates to go up and connect the two words that form a contraction or all the different parts of the solar system.

Scene transitions to a classroom with an interactive whiteboard at the front where technology teacher Susan Rhodes and a student are working.

Susan Rhodes: So we have our colors here. Which one do you think? (The student points to indicate which color to use in filling in the cumulus cloud on the whiteboard.) OK, so gray. Now we're going to click here and we're going to set that as our background. So, click 'set background'. (Student points on whiteboard.)

Scene transitions back to Sherry Schliesser in her office.

Principal Sherry Schliesser: Positive behavior support is just the glue that holds Kingswood together.

Scene transitions to show a poster in the school's hallway reading: A Kingswood fish **stays safe, works hard, is kind and respectful** ....– SWIM. Teachers at Kingswood with this learning climate that we have, really attach to positive behavior support and they have learned everything there is to know about it.

Scene transitions to show a line of students walking calmly from the hallway into their classroom.

Principal Sherry Schliesser: If you walk into our school, you will see a calm and attentive atmosphere.

Scene transitions to Shelley McCaslin, 3-5 Title I teacher, seated in a classroom.

Shelley McCaslin: And that's what's been so great. Because we really have truly all bought into it and love it and we can see it in the kids and it's exciting just to see even in the hallways. Even though they're not my students, you know, we can go ahead and see that PBIS is the same upstairs in the upper grades as it is downstairs and we really just get them at the beginning of the year and we just jumped right in as a staff and said we're going to jump full board into this and make this a good thing for our school.

Scene transitions to show student artwork of a fish not looking where he is swimming and bumping into another fish and another fish looking where he is swimming and swimming happily along.

Shelley McCaslin: It really is a team effort. Everyone's real good about jumping in with everything.

Scene transitions to Shelley McCaslin.

Shelley McCaslin: We don't say, "Oh, these are your Title I students, take care of them" or "These are your special ed students, take care of those." We really do take ownership of all of them. And being here so long [15 years], it's been neat for me to be able to see those kids grow and have all the siblings come through and build those parent relationships, too, and bringing that family involvement into the building.

Scene transitions back to the crowd of Kingswood Elementary students sitting on the floor in the school's cafeteria singing, "I Believe I Can Fly." Graphic:

Kingswood Elementary

2011 National Title I Distinguished School

More information on the Title I Distinguished Schools program is on the Web at [www.ncpublicschools.org/program-monitoring](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/program-monitoring).

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