

# Improvement on NC state assessment 46% greater for Fast ForWord participants than peers

## Implementation Objectives

The Warren County Schools in Warrenton, North Carolina, were interested in evaluating the effects of the Fast ForWord products on the students' reading skills. The district used a case study involving the assessment of student reading ability before and after participation on the Fast ForWord products.

## Methodology

School personnel tested the students' reading skills at the beginning and end of the study with the North Carolina End-of-Grade Test and/or the STAR Reading assessment. School personnel administered the assessments.

At each school, educators were trained in:

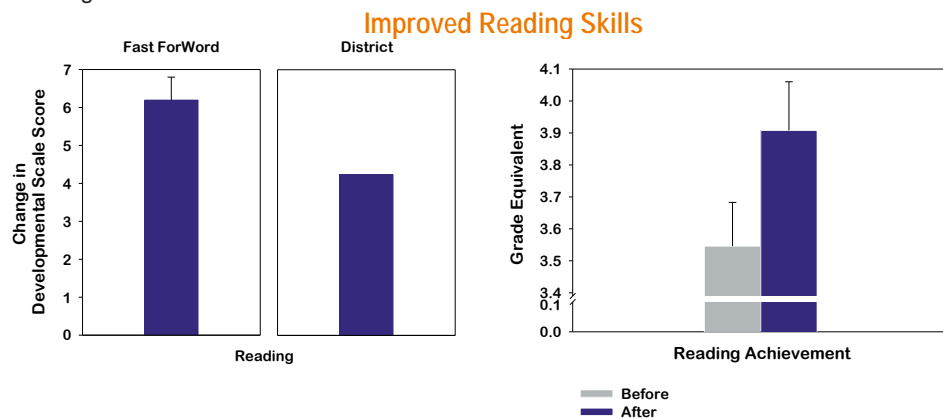
- Current findings on the neuroscience of how phonemic awareness and the acoustic properties of speech impact rapid development of language and reading skills
- Methods for assessing candidates for use of Fast ForWord
- Appropriate measures for testing and evaluation
- Effective implementation techniques
- Use of Progress Tracker reports to monitor student performance
- Techniques for measuring gains students achieve after they have finished using the product

## Schedule of Use

Students used the Fast ForWord products for 48 or 50 minutes per day, five days per week, for eight to twelve weeks. On average, students used Fast ForWord products for 58 days during a four month period.

## Assessment Results

End of Grade exams are North Carolina's high stakes assessment. Administered to students in third through eighth grade, they evaluate a students' reading and math skills. The STAR Reading assessment is a criterion- and norm-referenced test of reading ability. It consists of computer adaptive multiple choice questions and is appropriate for grades 1 through 12.



Typical improvement on the EOG varies by grade. On average, the Fast ForWord participants improved 6.2 points, 46% more than students in comparable grades district-wide. The students' initial average reading level as measured by the STAR Reading assessment was nearly 2 ½ years behind grade level. After using the Fast ForWord products, the students made significant improvements in their reading performance, with their average reading level increasing by four months to a level of 3.9.

## Educational Gains

The results found in this study support other studies demonstrating that using the Fast ForWord products results in the strengthening of foundational reading skills, better positioning students to partake in the classroom curriculum.

Students achieved significant gains in reading.



## Program Study Statistics

**School year:**  
2006-2007

**Number of Students:**  
115 students

**Grade Level:**  
Fourth through eleventh grade

**Products Used:**  
Fast ForWord Language  
Fast ForWord to Literacy  
Fast ForWord Language to Reading  
Fast ForWord to Literacy Advanced

**Assessment tool used:**  
North Carolina End-of-Grade Test

STAR Reading

**School Structure:**  
Rural

*For detailed analysis of this data or to request other reports showing significant academic gains following use of the Fast ForWord family of products go to: [www.scilearn.com/resultsreports](http://www.scilearn.com/resultsreports)*

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