

Moving from High Risk to Passing on Georgia High School Tests

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Implementation Objectives

Murray County High School, in Chatsworth, Georgia, was interested in evaluating the effects of the Fast ForWord products on the academic achievement of its students. The school has been quite successful at retaining students, achieving a 0% dropout rate in 2011. However, 10-15% of its students have consistently struggled to pass Georgia's graduation tests, which are required to earn a regular high school diploma. Taking a proactive approach, the school identified students at a high risk of failing the Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT) or the English language arts portion of the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT:ELA), and had those students use the Fast ForWord products.

Methodology

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 using the Fast ForWord products

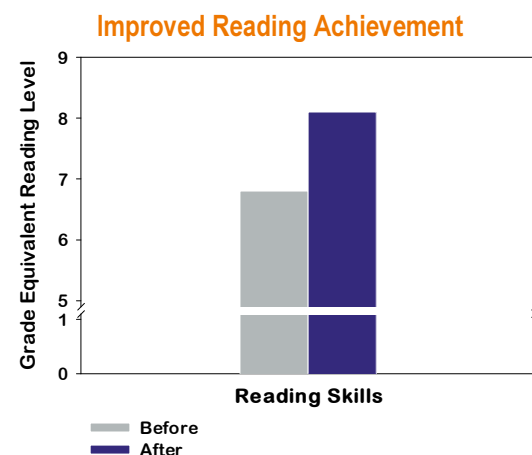
School personnel identified students who had scored poorly on the Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT – administered in 8th grade) and/or English I End of Course Test (EOCT – administered in 9th grade). These students used the Fast ForWord products prior to being assessed with the GHSWT and GHSGT:ELA in 11th and 12th grades.

Schedule of Use

Students used the 40-Minute protocols, which call for students to use the Fast ForWord products for 40 minutes a day, five days per week for nine to thirteen weeks. Students used the products for an average of 82 days across six months; 73% of the students completed two or more products.

Assessment Results

Reading Progress Indicator (RPI) is a nationally normed, computerized assessment developed by Scientific Learning in partnership with Bookette Software Company. RPI assesses students' early reading skills including phonemic awareness, decoding, vocabulary, and comprehension.



After Fast ForWord participation, study participants made significant gains in early reading skills measured by RPI. In five months, the students' skills improved from the late sixth grade level (6.8) to the early eighth grade level (8.1). The students were selected because they were at-risk of failing the GHSGT: ELA and/or the GHSWT; following Fast ForWord use, the majority passed these tests on their first try. By the time students completed 12th grade, 81% had passed the GHSGT: ELA and 88% had passed the GHSWT.

Educational Gains

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



Program Study Statistics

School Years:

2010-2012

Number of Schools:

1

Number of Students:

93

Grade Level:

10-11

Products Used:

Fast ForWord Literacy Series
Fast ForWord Reading Levels 3 - 5

Assessment Tool Used:

Georgia High School Graduation Test:
English Language Arts
(GHSGT:ELA)
Georgia High School Writing Test
(GHSWT)
Reading Progress Indicator (RPI)

District Statistics

Ethnic Breakdown

White: 78%
Hispanic: 20%

Classifications

Economically Disadvantaged: 62%
English Language Learners: 7%
Special Education: 12%

Environment:

Rural

For other reports showing significant academic gains following use of Scientific Learning products go to:
www.scilearn.com/resultsreports

Contact us for more information:

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