

# 58% of Fast ForWord participants exceed expected achievement on North Carolina state test

Scientific Learning: Research Briefings, 16(11)

## Implementation Objectives

District personnel in the Hoke County Schools in Raeford, North Carolina, were interested in evaluating the effects of Scientific Learning's products on the academic achievement of their students. They used an observational study involving the assessment of student reading and math achievement before and after use of the Fast ForWord products and/or Reading Assistant software. Study participants were 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders at elementary and middle schools in the Hoke County Schools.

## Methodology

Following use of the Scientific Learning products, school personnel tested the students' reading and math achievement with North Carolina's End-of-Grade test (EOG) and reported growth scores for analysis.

At each school, educators were trained in:

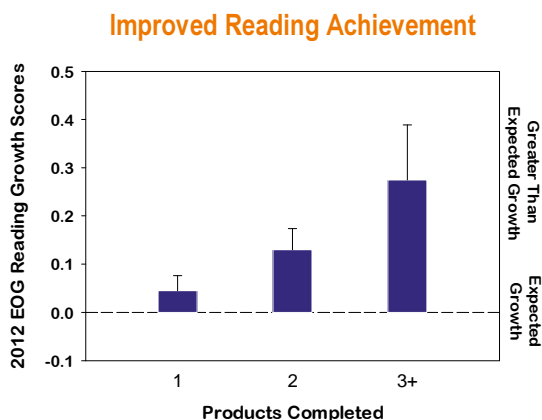
- Current findings on the neuroscience of how phonemic awareness and the acoustic properties of speech impact rapid development of language and reading skills
- Current research findings on the relationship between fluency and comprehension and how guided oral reading practice can impact reading improvement
- Methods for identifying appropriate candidates for Fast ForWord or Reading Assistant use
- 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 product

## Schedule of Use

Students in the Hoke County Schools used the 30-, 40-, or 50-Minute Fast ForWord protocols. On average, they used the products for 66 days across 5½ months, with average Attendance of 72% and Participation of 93%. Half the students (51%) completed at least one Fast ForWord product while 11% completed two or more. Some students (about 16%) also used Reading Assistant software spending an average of 25 days on the product. This study reports on students who had at least "moderate" Fast ForWord use (Attendance of at least 70% and at least one product completed).

## Assessment Results

The North Carolina End-of-Grade exams are high stakes tests designed to assess the reading and math achievement of students in grades 3-8. Growth scores compare results from the current year to results from past years. Positive growth scores indicate that students have learned more than expected; negative growth scores indicate that students learned less than expected.



After using the products, student achievement on the Reading and Math EOG's was significantly greater than expected ( $t(416) = 3.17$ ;  $p < 0.005$  for reading and  $t(419) = 2.44$ ;  $p < 0.05$  for math). The more products students completed, the more their achievement exceeded expectations (see Figure).

## 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. The students significantly improved their reading and math achievement.



## Program Study Statistics

### School Years:

2011-2012

### Number of Schools:

11

### Number of Students:

420

### Grade Level:

4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

### Products Used:

Fast ForWord Language Series  
Fast ForWord Literacy Series  
Fast ForWord Reading Prep  
Fast ForWord Reading Level 1-5  
Scientific Learning Reading Assistant

### Assessment Tool Used:

North Carolina End-of-Grade Test (EOG)

## District Statistics

### Demographics

African American: 44%  
Caucasian: 29%  
Hispanic: 13%  
Native American: 13%

### Classifications

Economically Disadvantaged: 62%  
English Language Learners: 8%  
Special Education: 13%

### Environment:

Rural

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

### Contact us for more information:

1-888-282-7401 (US & Canada)  
[info@scilearn.com](mailto:info@scilearn.com)  
[www.scientificlearning.com](http://www.scientificlearning.com)

Scientific Learning®