

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH STUDY

Texas Reading First Grant

Findings from Analysis of Year 1 Reading First Achievement Data in Lubbock ISD

Introduction

This presentation describes findings that emerged from an analysis of data from three sources: Grade 3 TAKS scores at the Reading First (RF) campuses; Voyager data – specifically, Reading Connected Text (RCT) – for benchmarks from (School Year) 03-04; and Grade 1 & 2 data from the Spring administration of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). These data sources were used to address the following questions related to the progress of Lubbock students:

- Is fluency (as measured by Voyager's RCT) an adequate indicator of student progress, and how is fluency related to TAKS and ITBS?
- Will Voyager really assist students in making gains toward the Reading First goal?

Finding: Fluency is an adequate and useful measure for monitoring students' progress toward the Reading First goal because fluency scores are practically and statistically related to both TAKS and ITBS. In other words, teachers and administrators can have a fairly high degree of confidence that progress made in fluency is related to progress made in reading achievement as measured by TAKS and ITBS.

Examination of Passing Rates and TAKS Scores Based on Reading Fluency

Range of words per minute	Number of students	Number of students meeting the state standard	% meeting the state standard	Average TAKS scale score
0–70 wpm	157	82	52%	2,058.95
71–92 wpm	271	222	82%	2,183.79
93–122 wpm	229	215	94%	2,258.95
123+ wpm	97	97	100%	2,336.19

Finding: Voyager helps students at all levels make gains in fluency. Gains in RCT were calculated for students in grades 1, 2, and 3 by examining the difference between RCT at Benchmark 2 and Benchmark 4. Overall gains and gains for the three reading levels were calculated. Students' gains show differences that are statistically significant for all grade levels.

Gains in RCT

Grade	Average Gain from BM #2 to BM #4 ¹	On Track	Emerging	Struggling
Grade 1 at entry (BM #2)	14	27	8	4
Grade 1 (BM #4)	32 (40)	37	32	23
Grade 2 (BM #4)	29 (50)	27	32	30
Grade 3 (BM #4)	20 (20)	23	21	13
Total wpm	95 (110)	114	93	70

Note: 1 Number in parentheses represents Voyager goal for student gain.

Principal Investigators

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Main Findings

- Fluency is an adequate and useful measure for monitoring students' progress toward the Reading First goal because fluency scores are practically and statistically related to both TAKS and ITBS.
- Voyager helps students at all levels make gains in fluency.

Study Profile

School Years: 2003-2004

Location: Lubbock, Texas

Grade Levels: First – Third Grade

Number of Students: 255

Voyager Program: Voyager Universal Literacy System®

Assessment Tools: VIP, ITBS, TAKS

Demographics

15% African American

43% Hispanic

41% Caucasian

1% Other

65% of students eligible for free or reduced lunch