

Students Achieved Expected Growth Despite COVID-19 School Closures—Results Highly Consistent with Prior Years

A study of 235,779 students found that despite nationwide school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, those students who had used Reading Plus achieved statistically significant reading proficiency gains on par with prior-year results. In addition, students who completed the recommended amounts of instruction achieved significantly larger gains than their peers who completed little or no Reading Plus instruction. These gains were achieved despite many students having to abruptly shift to remote learning in mid-spring.

Study Sample

235,779 students who completed two or more InSight reading assessments

Schools

2,351

School Districts

1,149

- Study Inclusion Requirements
- Students in grade 2 through 12
- Students with fall 2019 (pre) and spring 2020 (post) InSight assessment scores

Students Excluded

- Students for whom valid reading rates could not be calculated

Distribution of Students:

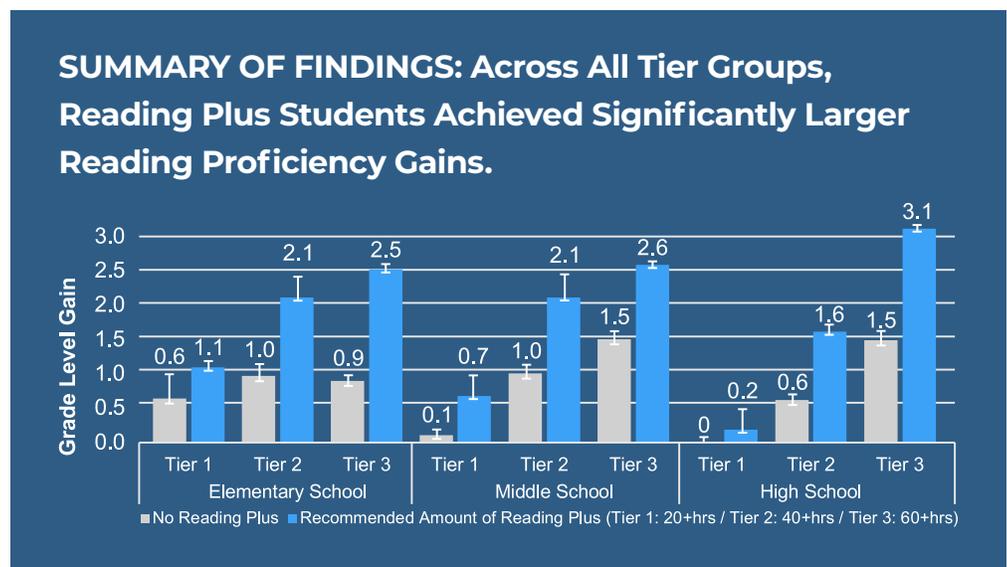
- Elementary School (Grades 2 through 5) n=39,447
- Middle School (Grades 6 through 8) n=123,730
- High School (Grades 9 through 12) n=72,602

Purpose of Report

This report describes the reading progress achieved by Reading Plus students who were enrolled in grades 2 through 12 during the 2019-2020 school year. The focus of the report is on students who completed the Reading Plus InSight silent reading assessment on at least two occasions, once near the start of the school year and again during the spring, so that growth over the school year could be measured.

InSight – Computer Adaptive Assessment

InSight provides measures of reading comprehension, vocabulary, comprehension-based silent reading rate, and motivation, as well as a composite reading proficiency grade-level score. Results can be readily compared with nationally normed standardized test results ([see correlations here](#)). A detailed review and evaluation of InSight’s reliability, validity, and classification accuracy can be found on the [National Center on Intensive Intervention](#) website.



Proficiency Growth by Reading Proficiency Tier

More intensive use of Reading Plus is recommended for students who are reading below grade level and need to catch up with their peers. Figures 1-3 shows reading proficiency growth achieved by students who started the school year at or above grade level (Tier 1), below grade level (Tier 2), or well below grade level (Tier 3).

Elementary School: Reading Proficiency Growth by Amount of Reading Plus Use

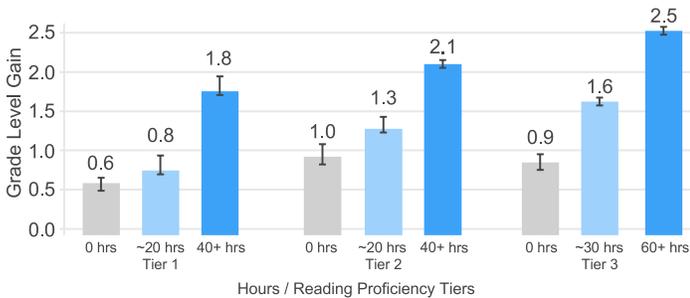


Figure 1. Reading proficiency gains (+/- SEM) achieved by elementary school students. Three levels of Reading Plus use are shown for each tier group: Tier 1 (at/above grade level), no use, recommended use (20 hours), and high use (40+ hours); Tier 2 (1-2 levels below grade level), no use, half of recommended use (20 hours), and recommended use (40+ hours); Tier 3 (3+ levels below grade level), no use, half of recommended use (30 hours), and recommended use (60+ hours). Students who completed the recommended amount of Reading Plus practice achieved large reading proficiency gains in all tier groups (Tier 1, 0.8 grade levels, $p < .001$, $d = .34$; Tier 2, 2.1 grade levels, $p < .001$, $d = 1.34$; Tier 3, 2.5 grade levels, $p < .001$, $d = 1.50$). These gains were significantly larger than those of their peers who did not use Reading Plus (Tier 1, $p < .001$, $d = .23$; Tier 2, $p < .001$, $d = .69$; Tier 3, $p < .01$, $d = .91$).

Middle School: Reading Proficiency Growth by Amount of Reading Plus Use

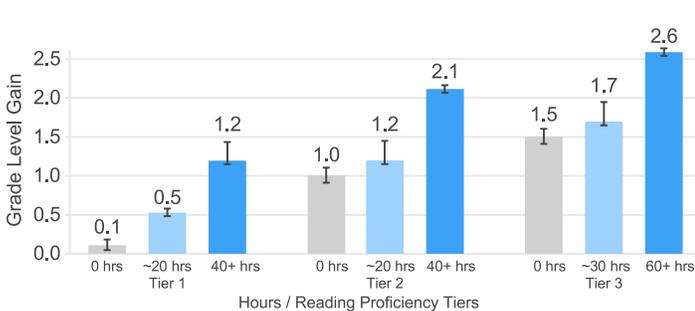


Figure 2. Reading proficiency gains (+/- SEM) achieved by middle school students. Three levels of Reading Plus use are shown for each tier group: Tier 1 (at/above grade level), no use, recommended use (20 hours), and high use (40+ hours); Tier 2 (1-2 levels below grade level), no use, half of recommended use (20 hours), and recommended use (40+ hours); Tier 3 (3+ levels below grade level), no use, half of recommended use (30 hours), and recommended use (60+ hours). Middle school students who completed the recommended amount of Reading Plus practice achieved significant reading proficiency gains in all tier groups (Tier 1, 0.5 grade levels, $p < .001$, $d = .35$; Tier 2, 2.1 grade levels, $p < .001$, $d = 1.20$; Tier 3, 2.6 grade levels, $p < .001$, $d = 1.33$). These gains were significantly larger than those of their peers who did not use Reading Plus (Tier 1, $p < .001$, $d = .35$; Tier 2, $p < .001$, $d = .56$; Tier 3, $p < .001$, $d = .50$).

High School: Reading Proficiency Growth by Amount of Reading Plus Use

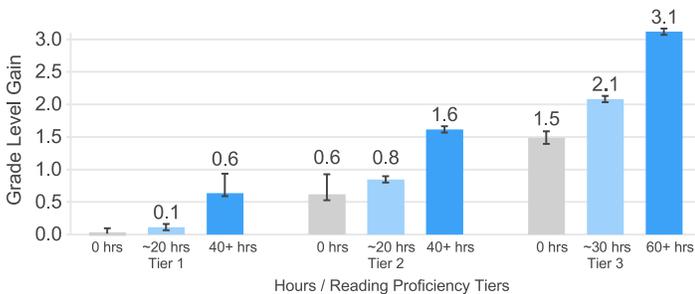


Figure 3. Reading proficiency gains (+/- SEM) achieved by high school students. Three levels of Reading Plus use are shown for each tier group: Tier 1 (at/above grade level), no use, recommended use (20 hours), and high use (40+ hours); Tier 2 (reading at a middle school grade level), no use, half of recommended use (20 hours), and recommended use (40+ hours); Tier 3 (reading at an elementary school grade level), no use, half of recommended use (30 hours), and recommended use (60+ hours). High school students who completed the recommended amount of Reading Plus practice achieved significant reading proficiency gains (Tier 1, 0.1 grade levels, $p < .01$, $d = .07$; Tier 2, 1.6 grade levels, $p < .001$, $d = .96$; Tier 3, 3.1 grade levels, $p < .001$, $d = 1.42$). These gains were significantly larger than those of their peers who did not use Reading Plus (Tier 1, $p < .01$, $d = .17$; Tier 2, $p < .001$, $d = .48$; Tier 3, $p < .001$, $d = .67$).

Summary

Despite nationwide school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students in all tier groups who engaged in the recommended amount of Reading Plus instruction over the course of the 2019-2020 school year achieved expected growth on par with prior year results. Reading Plus students significantly increased their capacity to comprehend increasingly complex texts. Students who completed more Reading Plus lessons achieved significantly larger gains than their peers who engaged in little or no Reading Plus lessons.