

Fast ForWord continues to help students in Clarke County, GA reach and maintain proficiency

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Implementation Objectives

The Clarke County School District in Athens, GA, was interested in evaluating the effects of the Fast ForWord products on the reading achievement of its students. A multi-school quasi-experimental design with delayed entry was used. The students' reading achievement was evaluated with the CRCT at various time points before and after Fast ForWord participation, with dates ranging from 2006 to 2011.

Methodology

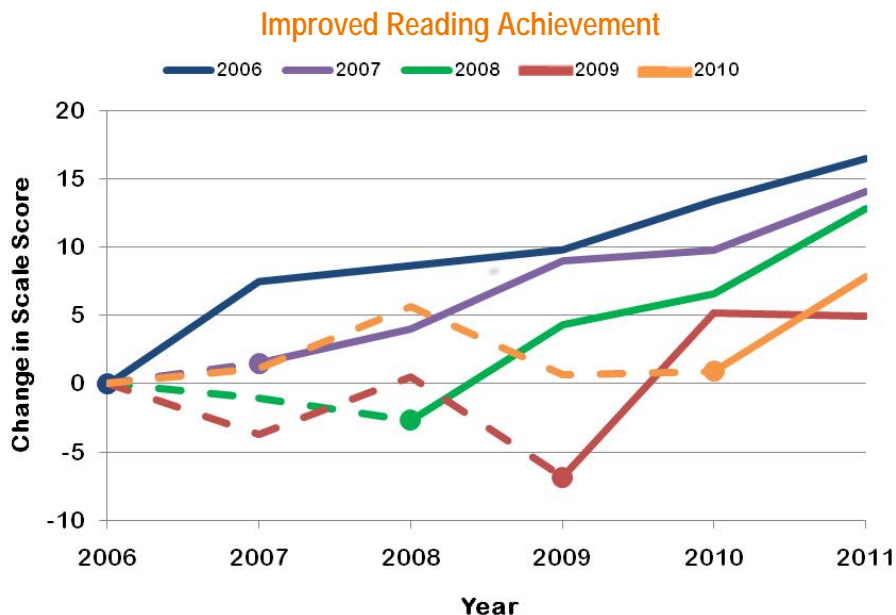
School personnel tested the students' academic skills each spring using the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT). At each school, educators received the necessary training to ensure a strong Fast ForWord implementation.

Schedule of Use

Students who used the Fast ForWord products generally started with the Fast ForWord Language or Fast ForWord Literacy products and progressed through the sequence, with some students reaching the Fast ForWord Reading Level 5 product. For the students using products during the 2010-2011 school year, on average, students used the products for 60 – 70 days during a six-month period.

Assessment Results

The CRCT are designed to measure how well students acquire the skills and knowledge described in the Georgia Performance Standards and are administered each spring to students in 1st – 8th grades. The graph depicts average gains relative to 2006 by cohorts of students who started using the Fast ForWord products during different school years. Dashed lines represent the years before Fast ForWord products were used by the cohort; solid lines show the years after use. As seen below, students consistently improved their Reading achievement scores after Fast ForWord use and maintained those gains, even continuing to improve their scores. During the 2010-2011 school year alone, on average, students made statistically significant gains in Reading achievement ($t(204) = 6.3$; $p < 0.01$) and the percentage of non-proficient students who reached proficiency on the CRCT Reading test was 55%. The district was recently named a Title I Distinguished District by the state of Georgia based on their CRCT scores over the last few years.



Educational Gains

Students achieved statistically significant gains in reading achievement.



Program Study Statistics

School Years:

2006-2011

Number of Schools:

15

Number of Students:

1,061 students

Grade Level:

Elementary and middle

Products Used:

Fast ForWord Language Series
Fast ForWord Reading Series

Assessment Tool Used:

Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT)

District Statistics (2006-2011)

Ethnic Breakdown

White: 42%

Black: 47%

Hispanic: 11%

Classifications

English Language Learners: 10%

Students with IEP's: 12%

Environment:

Urban

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

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