

MULTI-YEAR EXTERNAL EVALUATION PROJECTS CONDUCTED *(Since 2011)*



Gold-standard research found Reading Partners' program had a **positive and statistically significant impact** on second- through fifth-grade student reading proficiency, leading to acceptance into the Institute of Education Sciences What Works Clearinghouse.

DESIGN: *Randomized control trial*

2011-2015

1,166
students
GRADES 2-5



A respected national education research firm found that first- through third-grade students served by Reading Partners (and particularly English Language Learners) showed **significantly greater improvement in their literacy skills** than comparison students not served by the program.

DESIGN: *Quasi-experimental with comparison group*

2012-2018

1,551
students
GRADES 1-3

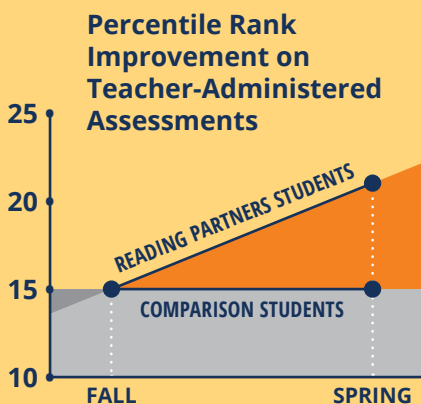


A leading national nonprofit research organization found that kindergarten through fifth-grade students who participated in Reading Partners' one-on-one tutoring program not only showed **gains in their reading skills, but also made improvements in their social-emotional learning skills.**

DESIGN: *Pre-post*

2016-2018

716
students
GRADES K-5



An increase in percentile rank indicates that a student has improved relative to his or her peers.

KEY LEARNING 1

Our program promotes **literacy skill gains** among elementary-aged students

MDRC found that Reading Partners had a positive and statistically significant impact on student reading comprehension, reading fluency, and sight-word reading.

APA found that Reading Partners' students had statistically significantly higher spring assessment scores than comparison students (figure at left).

Program was particularly effective for English Language Learners.

KEY LEARNING 2

Our program implementation is strong



Program implemented with fidelity: All three studies explored aspects of Reading Partners program implementation, finding that the key components of our model are delivered by volunteers as intended across geographies.

Dosage matters: APA found that, when comparing Reading Partners students to all comparison students, there is a significant positive effect of each additional tutoring session.

...but it's not just about sheer number of sessions: Results from **CHILD TRENDS** suggest that student performance is stronger when students receive sessions more regularly, with students that attended eight or more sessions per month out-performing students that attended less frequently.

For each additional tutoring session a student received, there was a small statistically significant positive effect.



KEY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION FINDINGS

MDRC ▶ Students received regular sessions, staff regularly monitored student reading progress, and staff and volunteers received sufficient training and support.

APA ▶ Reading Partners was able to successfully engage school partners, recruit and train volunteer tutors, and deliver tutoring following the curriculum.

CHILD TRENDS ▶ Tutors consistently followed lesson plans, used strategies on individualized reading plans, engaged students throughout sessions, used effective instructional strategies and accepted and applied coaching from the site coordinator.

KEY LEARNING 3

Our program encourages social-emotional development



83% of students improved their social-emotional learning skills by the end of the school year. **CHILD TRENDS**, in a small-scale study, found that:

- 1 students demonstrated statistically significant improvements in reading engagement, social competence, persistence, and self-control during the program.
- 2 most tutors (nearly 90%) reported positive, warm relationships with students.
- 3 positive, warm student-tutor relationships were favorably associated with students' growth in school engagement and persistence.
- 4 students tutored by a single tutor were more likely to be reading on grade level by end-of-year than were students who worked with multiple tutors.

KEY LEARNING 4

Reading Partners is a resource multiplier



Reading Partners is a good value: MDRC found that, for every dollar invested, Reading Partners doubles the resources to students, combining \$1,910 in in-kind resources (mostly volunteer time) with \$1,700 in cash contributions for each student in the program.

Schools bear only a small portion of the total costs of the Reading Partners program because the program relies heavily on volunteers. The average cost to the school per Reading Partners student was significantly lower than the average cost of other supplemental reading services examined in the study.



For a full summary of each of the studies highlighted above, please visit: readingpartners.org/program-impact