

Nevada Department of Education: Fast ForWord is a “High-Gain Program”

Report Objectives

Nevada Senate Bill 185 (SB 185) funded districts to purchase and implement innovative and remedial educational programs, materials, and strategies specific to their academic needs. The Nevada Department of Education commissioned the Colorado-based Leadership and Learning Center (LLC) to conduct an in-depth evaluation of the programs that have been purchased with SB 185 grants. Their 2010 Interim Report includes a review of the performance of Fast ForWord products.

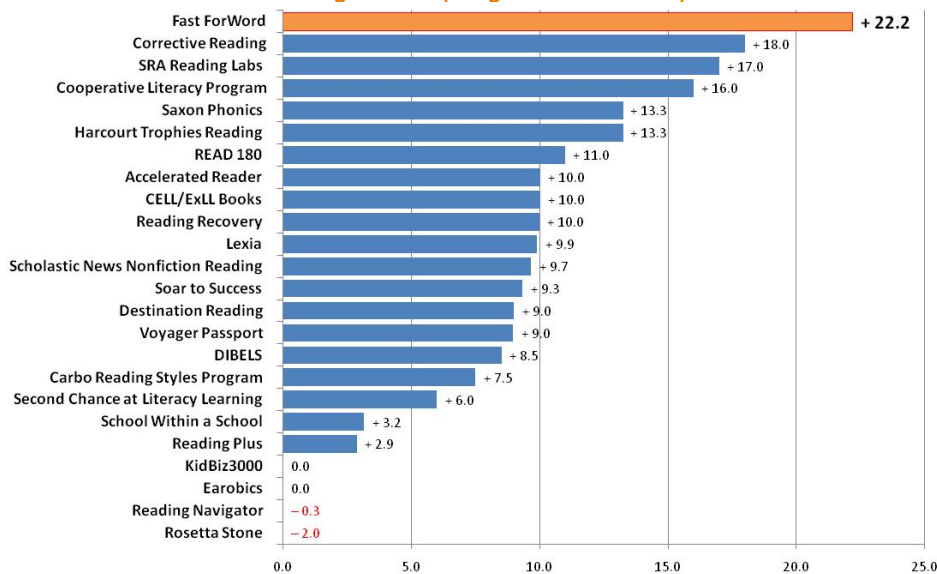
Report Conclusions

The Leadership and Learning Center used multivariate analysis to determine the impact of programs on student achievement:

“Emphasis was placed on measuring student growth toward academic proficiency and mastery using state and local assessments... The analyses were completed as a result of extensive site visits, phone interviews, and an examination of two-year sets of school cohort achievement data for Criterion-Referenced Tests (CRT) for grades three through eight and High School Proficiency Exams (HSPE) for grades nine through twelve..”

Their report concludes that Fast ForWord products increased student reading achievement by an average of 22.2 percentage points. This was the largest average impact of all programs reviewed in the report (see figure below), and it qualified Fast ForWord as a “High-Gain Program”.

Mean Student Achievement Gain
Percentage Points (Longer Bars are Better)



The report also examined CRT results at Judy and John Goolsby Elementary School (which implemented Fast ForWord across all grade levels), in detail. They concluded that each year of Fast ForWord implementation resulted in an increase in the percentage of grade-level proficient students:

“CRT data indicate a statistically significant increase in Reading and Writing proficiency levels... CRT data indicate that Reading increased from 67% to 82% proficient, [and] Writing increased significantly from 55% to 82% proficient... from 2006 to 2008.”

Study Overview

Products Used:

Fast ForWord Language Series
Fast ForWord Reading Series

Grade Levels:

Kindergarten-9th grade
2007-2008 School Year

Assessment Tools Used:

Criterion-Referenced Tests
High School Proficiency Exams
Developmental Reading Assessment
Informal Assessments

Citation for Full Report:

The Nevada Department of Education and The Leadership and Learning Center. (March, 2010). *Innovation and Remediation Interim Report: A Collaborative Project between The Nevada Department of Education and The Leadership and Learning Center.* Englewood, Colorado.

For detailed analysis of this data or to request other reports showing significant academic gains following use of the Fast ForWord family of products go to:

www.scilearn.com/resultsreports

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