

EFFICACY

# Amplify Reading 6–8 efficacy research report

# Table of contents

Introduction ..... 3

Methodology ..... 3

    Instruments..... 3

    Participants..... 4

Results ..... 4

# Introduction

Amplify Reading: 6–8 Edition is a digital reading program for grades 6–8 that teaches close reading through instruction and practice using both literary and informational texts. The program takes the form of an interactive graphic novel called *The Last Readers*. The story comes in three “books” of six to eight chapters.

In this analysis, we addressed the following research question:

**Did students demonstrate improved close reading at the end of the first eight chapters as compared with the beginning?**

Yes. Post-test performance was better than pre-test performance. On average, a student who scored at the 50th percentile at the beginning would score at the 61st percentile at the end.

## Methodology

### Instruments

Students’ close reading ability was measured before and after Amplify Reading: 6–8 Edition using a pre- and post-test. The pre- and post-tests consisted of two informational passages and two literary passages. After each passage, students were asked five questions, for a total of 20 questions. Multiple forms of the tests were created so that students did not read the same passage again at the post-test and scaled so that they produced comparable scores. An example

**What is the main claim of the passage? Select the best answer.**

- “Different men often see the same subject in different lights.” (Paragraph 1)
- “It is natural to man to indulge in the illusions of hope.” (Paragraph 2)
- “We must fight!” (Paragraph 3)
- “We are not weak.” (Paragraph 4)

## Participants

Across the four schools, forty-three students had complete data and were included in the analysis. The demographics of the four pilot schools are summarized below.

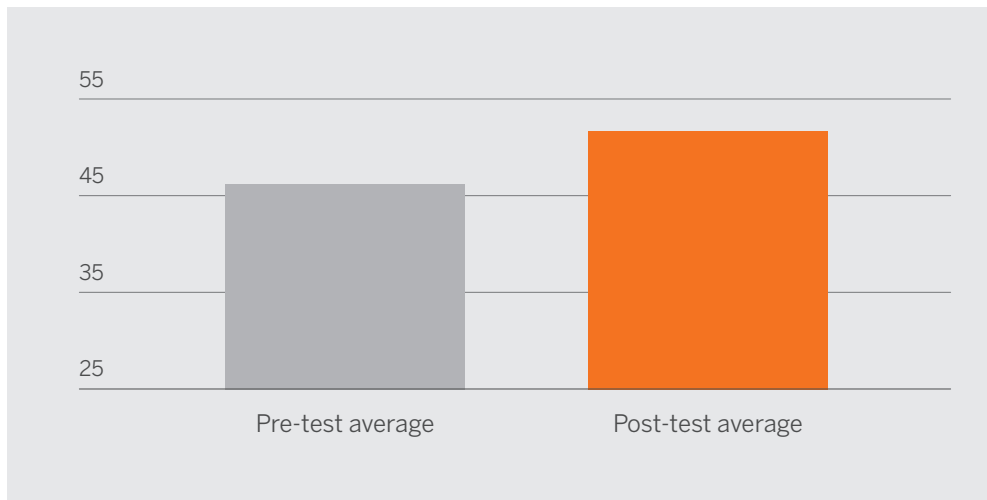
	School 1	School 2	School 3	School 4
% F/R Lunch	66.7%	27.0%	26.0%	29.0%
% White	91.9%	74.0%	34.0%	75.0%
% Black	1.3%	4.0%	33.0%	10.0%
% Asian	3.1%	19.0%	23.0%	10.0%
% Hispanic	1.1%	1.1%	9.0%	1.0%
% Two or more	2.8%	2.8%	1.0%	4.0%

# 6.52

scale score points  
gained in 3.5 weeks  
of instruction

## Results

Growth and the comparison of growth to average scores in Amplify Reading 6–8 are shown the plots below.



Students gained an average of 6.52 scale score points between pre- and post-test, effect size +0.30. This growth occurred over an average of 18 school days, or approximately 3.5 weeks of instruction. That means that a student who scored at the 50th percentile at the beginning would, on average, score at the 61st percentile at the end.

This is significant at the 0.05 level, meaning that there is a less than 5% chance this growth is just a random fluctuation.

For more information  
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