

# Imagine Language & Literacy in Connecticut: increased proficiency on the Smarter Balanced Assessment

## What is Imagine Language & Literacy?

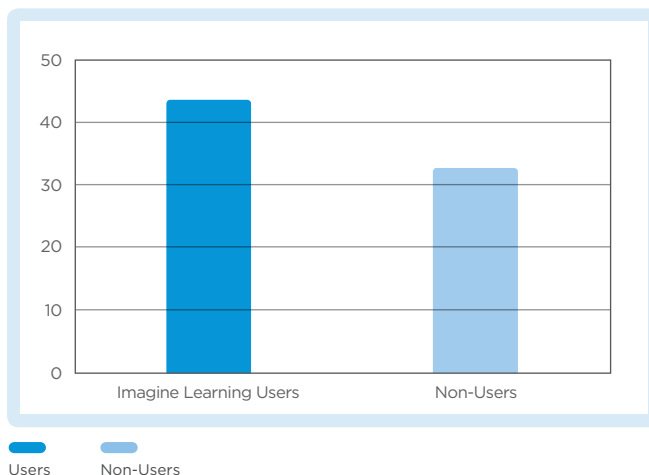
Imagine Language & Literacy is an instructional software program designed to build language and literacy skills among students in grades K-6. To improve language and literacy achievement, Imagine Language & Literacy features instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, grammar, and language development (both academic and conversational). The program aligns with educational standards and addresses skills students need to become proficient in reading.

## The Study

The objective of this study was to determine the effectiveness of the Imagine Language & Literacy program in improving Smarter Balanced ELA performance in Connecticut schools and thereby fulfill ESSA requirements for evidence of effectiveness. Data was obtained for 26 schools who used Imagine Language & Literacy and 711 schools who did not use the program.

- School-level Smarter Balanced ELA assessment, race/ethnicity, ELL status, free or reduced lunch rate, and special education status data for the 2016-2017 school year were obtained from the Connecticut State Department of Education online data portal (<http://edsight.ct.gov/SASPortal/main.do>).
- Each Imagine Language & Literacy user school was statistically matched with three, highly similar, non-using schools using propensity score matching.
- The average effect of Imagine Language & Literacy use was estimated by statistically comparing the percent of students who achieved level 3 proficiency or above on the Smarter Balanced ELA assessment between schools that did and did not use Imagine Language & Literacy.

## Percent of Students Who Achieved a Smarter Balanced Proficiency Level of 3 or Above



## Results

Connecticut schools that used Imagine Language & Literacy during the 2016-2017 school year had, on average, 10.9% more students achieving a Smarter Balanced proficiency level of 3 or greater than non-using schools. **These differences were statistically significant.**

## Conclusions

Use of the Imagine Language & Literacy program during the 2016-2017 school year is associated with significant increases in performance on the Smarter Balanced ELA assessment. It is likely that Connecticut schools that adopt the Imagine Language & Literacy program would enjoy similar gains.