Imagine Language & Literacy: Greater growth on the NWEA MAP assessment

Oklahoma School District Case Report

Background

During the 2017–2018 school year, a school district in the midwestern United States implemented Imagine Language & Literacy as a supplemental instructional tool for its students. The school district serves diverse populations of students. Within the school district, 35% of students are Hispanic, 24% are African American, 24% are White, 5% are Native American, and 2.1% are Asian/Pacific Islander. Approximately 22% of students in the district are English learners (ELs).

To determine the impact of the program on student growth, we utilized NWEA MAP Reading scores provided by the district from the beginning- and end-of-year for sixty-five EL program users and forty-seven EL non-users in grades Kindergarten through grade seven. On average, Imagine Learning users who had beginning- and end-of-year NWEA MAP scores used the program for twelve hours during the school year.

Results

Figure 1 presents the distribution of NWEA MAP Reading RIT score growth between non-users and students who used Imagine Language & Literacy during the 2017–2018 school year. These results demonstrate that users of the Imagine Language & Literacy program enjoyed greater RIT score growth when compared to non-users. The distribution of growth and median growth scores was greater in terms of positive growth for program users than for non-users. It would appear that use of the Imagine Language & Literacy program favorably impacted the average RIT score growth for the students who used it during the 2017–2018 school year.

Conclusions

The results of this study support the role of Imagine Language & Literacy as a supplementary tool for the development of language and literacy achievement. Students who used the program in the school district for the 2017–2018 school year experienced improvements in language and literacy proficiency as demonstrated by performance on the NWEA's MAP Reading assessment. Given these findings, we would expect similar results for other students who use the Imagine Language & Literacy program with fidelity.

Figure 1. Distribution of NWEA MAP Reading RIT Score Growth