

# Longitudinal study shows Fast ForWord helps students in Clarke County, GA reach proficiency

## Implementation Objectives

The Clarke County School District in Athens, GA, was interested in evaluating the effects of the Fast ForWord products on the reading achievement of their students. A multi-school quasi-experimental design with delayed entry was used. The students' reading achievement was evaluated with the CRCT at three time points: the spring of 2006, 2007, and 2008. The students were in kindergarten through eighth grade.

## Methodology

School personnel tested the students' reading achievement each spring (2006 – 2008) with the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test – the Georgia state test. There were three waves of students with the third wave not using the product until after the 2008 test.

Educators were trained in:

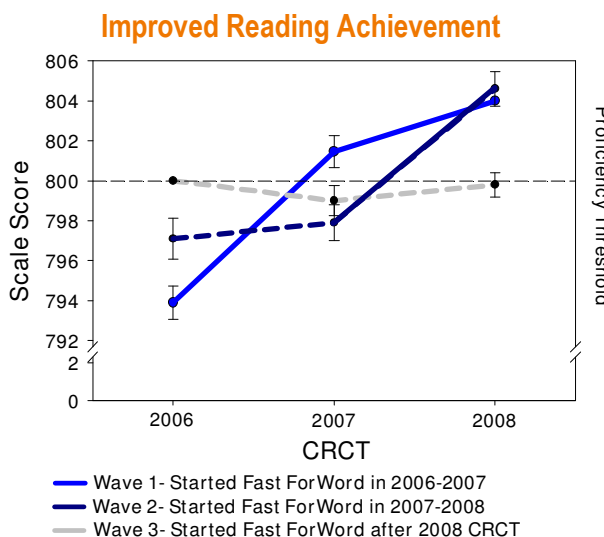
- Current findings on the neuroscience of how phonemic awareness and the acoustic properties of speech impact rapid development of language and reading skills
- Methods for assessing candidates for use of Fast ForWord
- Appropriate measures for testing and evaluation
- Effective implementation techniques
- Use of Progress Tracker reports to monitor student performance
- Techniques for measuring gains students achieved after using the products

## Schedule of Use

Students who used the Fast ForWord products generally started with the Fast ForWord Language or Fast ForWord Literacy products and progressed through the sequence; during the 2007 – 2008 school year, some students started on the Fast ForWord Reading products. On average, students used the products for 60 – 70 days during a 6 month period.

## Assessment Results

The Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) are designed to measure how well students acquire the skills and knowledge described in the Georgia Performance Standards. The tests are administered each spring to students in 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades.



group (third wave) served as the comparison group and did not use the products until after the 2008 test.

## Educational Gains

The results found in this study support other studies demonstrating that using the Fast ForWord products results in the strengthening of foundational reading skills, better positioning students to partake in the classroom curriculum.

Students achieved statistically significant gains in reading achievement.



## Program Study Statistics

### School years:

2006-2007; 2007 - 2008

### Number of Students:

2,257 students

### Grade Level:

First through eighth grade

### Products Used:

Fast ForWord Language Basics  
Fast ForWord Language  
Fast ForWord Language to Reading  
Fast ForWord Middle & High School  
Fast ForWord Literacy  
Fast ForWord Literacy Advanced  
Fast ForWord Reading Prep  
Fast ForWord Reading Level 1  
Fast ForWord Reading Level 2  
Fast ForWord Reading Level 3

### Assessment tool used:

Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT)

### School Structure:

Urban

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](http://www.scilearn.com/resultsreports)

### Customer Service:

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