

# Fast ForWord participants in the St. Mary Parish Schools nearly triple the gains of students in comparison group

## Implementation Objectives

The St. Mary Parish Public School System in Centerville, Louisiana, was interested in evaluating the effects of the Fast ForWord products on the reading skills of its students. The District used a case study involving the assessment of student reading skills before and after participation on the Fast ForWord products. Study participants were in third through fifth grade during the 2006-2007 or 2007-2008 school years.

## Methodology

School personnel tested the students' reading skills at the beginning and end of the study using the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP), Integrated Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (iLEAP) and Reading Progress Indicator (RPI). School personnel administered the assessment.

Educators were trained in:

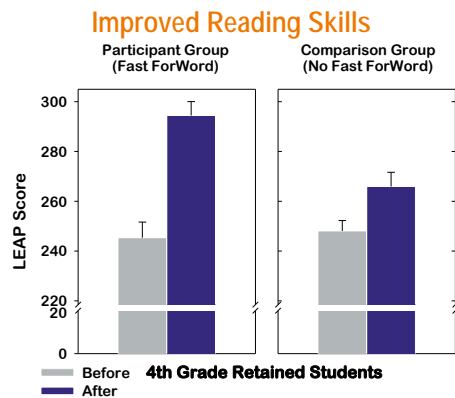
- Current findings on the neuroscience of how phonemic awareness and the acoustic properties of speech impact rapid development of language and reading skills
- Methods for assessing candidates for use of Fast ForWord
- Appropriate measures for testing and evaluation
- Effective implementation techniques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

## Schedule of Use

During the 2006-2007 school year, 280 students used Fast ForWord products for 95 days during an 8-month period. During the 2007-2008 school year, 653 students, including some who had used Fast ForWord products in the previous year, participated 96 days during a 7-month period. Both years, students used an average of 3 – 3 ½ products.

## Assessment Results

The Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) and the Integrated Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (iLEAP) are parts of Louisiana's state testing program, indicating each student's performance relative to state and national standards. Scores were reported in terms of scaled scores and proficiency levels.



During the 2006-2007 school year, Fast ForWord participants significantly improved their LEAP/iLEAP scores, with 29% increasing by one or more proficiency levels. Results from the African-American students were comparable to the entire group: LEAP/iLEAP improvement was 12 points with 30% of the students improving one or more levels.

By considering students retained in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, two comparable groups were formed: one group was post-tested before the district used Fast ForWord products, and the other group after. The Fast ForWord group made significantly greater gains at post-test,

improving on average of 49 points – 31 points more than the non-Fast ForWord group.

The 2007-2008 school year, the district continued to evaluate Fast ForWord impact. Students improved their reading grade level by an average of 1 year, 2 months in a 7-month period according to Reading Progress Indicator (RPI), a computer-based assessment designed to measure the effects of the Fast ForWord products.

## 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 significant gains in reading skills.



## Program Study Statistics

### School year:

2006-2007  
2007-2008

### Number of Participants:

869 students

### Grade Level:

Third through fifth grade

### Products Used:

Fast ForWord Language  
Fast ForWord Language to Reading  
Fast ForWord Reading Level 1  
Fast ForWord Reading Level 2  
Fast ForWord Reading Level 3  
Fast ForWord Reading Level 4  
Fast ForWord Reading Level 5

### Assessment tool used:

Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP)  
Integrated Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (iLEAP)  
Reading Progress Indicator (RPI)

### School Structure:

Rural

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)

### Contact us for more information:

1-888-282-7401 (US and Canada)  
info@scilearn.com  
[www.scientificlearning.com](http://www.scientificlearning.com)