

# Lexia Core5 Reading Progress Report

2019-20 School Year Results for Students in Canada

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## Program Description

The Lexia® Core5® Reading program (Core5) is an adaptive blended learning program that provides students with the explicit instruction needed to accelerate mastery of reading skills. In Core5, students complete activities (i.e., skills) such as initial/final consonant discrimination, silent-e word construction, categorizing, idioms, and reading comprehension. Skills in Core5 are organized into 21 levels that cover Pre-K through 5th grade skills. Mastery of skills (90%–100% accuracy) is required for students to advance to the next level. Students reach their end-of-year, grade-level benchmark when they complete all of the material up to and including the Core5 levels that correspond to their grade level. Progress in Core5 is evaluated by comparing the students' grade level to their Core5 level at the beginning and end of the year.

Learn more about the program at [www.lexialearning.com](http://www.lexialearning.com).

## Key Findings

Around **9,000 students** in grades K–5 used the online components of Core5 as recommended during the 2019-20 school year in 923 schools across Canada. Students of all abilities made substantial progress in Core5 across the year:

- ▶ The percentage of students who were classified as working in or above grade level **more than doubled** by June (increased from 14% to 52%).
- ▶ Nearly one quarter of students (21%) **reached their grade level benchmark** in Core5.
- ▶ Many students who started the school year working on skills below their grade level **greatly reduced their risk for reading failure**, ending the school year working on skills in or above their grade-level benchmark in Core5 (percentage of students working below grade level was reduced from 86% to 48%).

While the COVID-19 pandemic caused significant disruptions to education in the 2019-20 school year, many students were able to learn from home using Core5, including around **64,860 K-5 students who first started using Core5 during the educational disruption period**.

## PROGRAM FIDELITY

Students receive weekly usage targets ranging from 20-80 minutes per week. These targets update monthly, based on the likelihood of reaching end-of-year, grade-level benchmark in Core5. Because the program is designed for consistent use across the year, usage fidelity is also based on how many weeks a student uses Core5.

Students are considered to have used the online portion of Core5 *with fidelity* if they used the program for at least 20 weeks, met their weekly usage targets for 50% or more of those weeks, and started using the program before the end of 2019. For example, a student who started using Core5 in September 2019, used Core5 for 22 weeks throughout the year, and met usage targets for 11 of those weeks has used Core5 with fidelity.

## PROGRESS EXAMPLES

A third grade student started the school year working on second grade level skills ("1 Grade Below"). Throughout the school year, he completed all of the second grade skills and ended the year working on third grade skills, ending the year "In Student Grade".

Another third grade student started the school year working on third grade level skills. She not only completed third grade skills, but started working on fourth grade level skills by the end of the school year. By completing third grade skills, she reached the end-of-year, grade-level benchmark ("Reached EOY Benchmark").

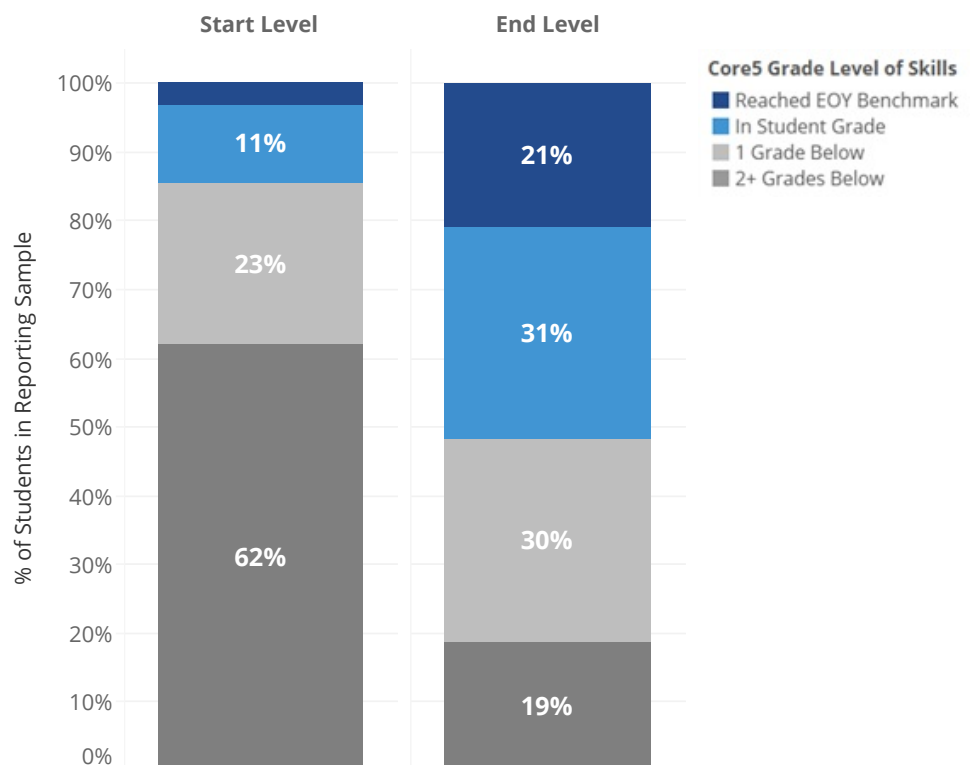
## Description of Reporting Sample

8,966 students in grades K–5 in 923 schools across Canada used the online components of Core5 with fidelity for at least 20 weeks. On average, these students logged into the program for 80 minutes a week for 27 weeks. By the end of the 2019-20 school year, these students demonstrated mastery in an average of 22 skills in Core5, which covers approximately 4 levels of the program.

## Progress in Core5 for All Students in Reporting Sample

Students who used Core5 with fidelity made substantial progress. At the start of the school year, 14% of students were working on Core5 material in or above their grade level (see Figure 1; note that graph labels may not add to 100% due to rounding). That number **increased to 52%** by the end of the school year. The percentage of students working below grade level decreased from 86% to 48%. Even with the educational disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, 21% of this student sample reached their grade-level benchmark in Core5 by the end of the school year.

Figure 1. Progress in Core5 for All Students in Reporting Sample (N=8,966)



\* Graph labels may not add to 100% due to rounding.

\*\* Note that schools are user-defined, and may not directly correspond to physical schools.

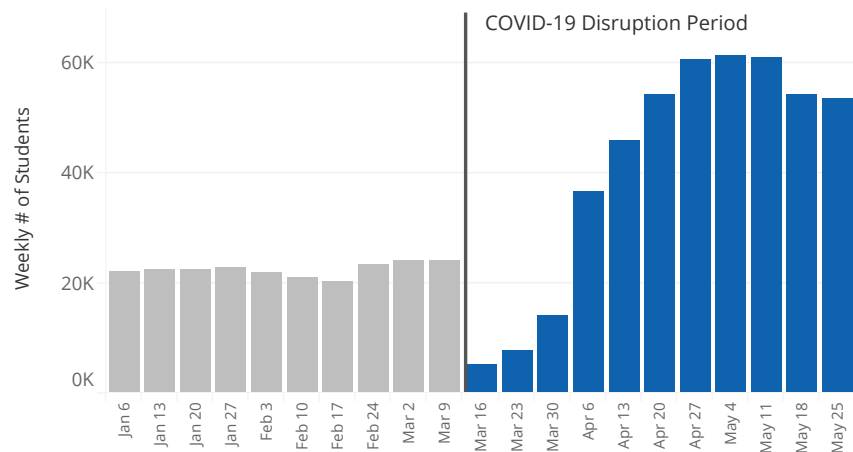
## LEARNING FROM HOME

As part of an effort to expand access to literacy education during the educational disruption, Lexia offered free unlimited Core5 licenses through a Learn From Home program in March 2020. Over 1,700 schools across Canada received free unlimited access to Core5, increasing student access to remote literacy instruction and empowering educators across the country.

## The COVID-19 Disruption

Education was undeniably disrupted by nationwide school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This disruption caused student access, usage, and progress in Core5 to look different in the 2019-20 school year when compared to previous years. While some students likely experienced issues accessing school materials from home, **substantially more students in Canada used Core5 during the disruption period than before** (Figure 2). In the two months leading up to the school closures, an average of around 22,000 students logged into Core5 each week. This increased to an average of 42,000 weekly users during the disruption period, with the peak week having over 61,000 active student users.

Figure 2. Weekly Number of Active Core5 Student Users



Despite the challenges posed by the educational disruption, students in Canada continued to learn from home and make literacy gains with Core5:



**Increased Core5 access:** Nearly **64,900 K-5 students** first started using Core5 while learning from during the disruption period.



**Increased weekly learning time:** Average weekly time spent in the program **increased by 27%**. In the first two months of 2020, students used Core5 for an average of 60 minutes per week. During the disruption period, students used Core5 for around 76 minutes per week, with an average of 58% of students meeting their recommended usage targets each week.



**Increased progress:** The increased time spent using Core5 resulted in students completing an average of **4 more units per week** during the disruption period than during the first two months of 2020 (increasing from an average of approximately 9.7 units per week to approximately 14.0 units per week).