Every Minute Counts: Meeting Usage Targets in Core5

National Sample of Some Risk and High Risk Students in Grades K–5

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Key Findings

Some Risk and High Risk students are much more likely to reach their end-of-year (EOY), grade-level benchmark in Core5 when they consistently meet their usage targets. For students who showed strong usage (i.e., met their targets 75-100% of weeks of use), 55% reached their EOY, grade-level benchmark. In contrast, only 2% with weak usage reached their EOY, grade-level benchmark.

Lexia Reading Core5

Lexia Reading Core5 (Core5) is a technology-based instructional program that accelerates student mastery of reading skills in grades Pre-K through 5. When students begin Core5, an auto placement feature determines an appropriate start level in the program. Students who used Core5 during the previous school year continue where they left off in the spring. As a component of Lexia's patented embedded assessment tool, Assessment Without Testing, students receive a monthly Performance Predictor score which estimates their percent chance of reaching EOY, grade-level benchmark in Core5. Predictor scores are derived from formulas that vary by student grade and month. These formulas contain up to five Core5 performance variables (e.g., Core5 level, cumulative minutes of Core5 use, etc.). Predictor scores are organized into three risk levels: On Target (80-99%), Some Risk (31-79%), and High Risk (1-30%). Based on their risk level and grade, students are given a weekly usage target (20-80 minutes) that is updated monthly. Consistently meeting usage targets increases the chances that students will reach their EOY, grade-level benchmark.
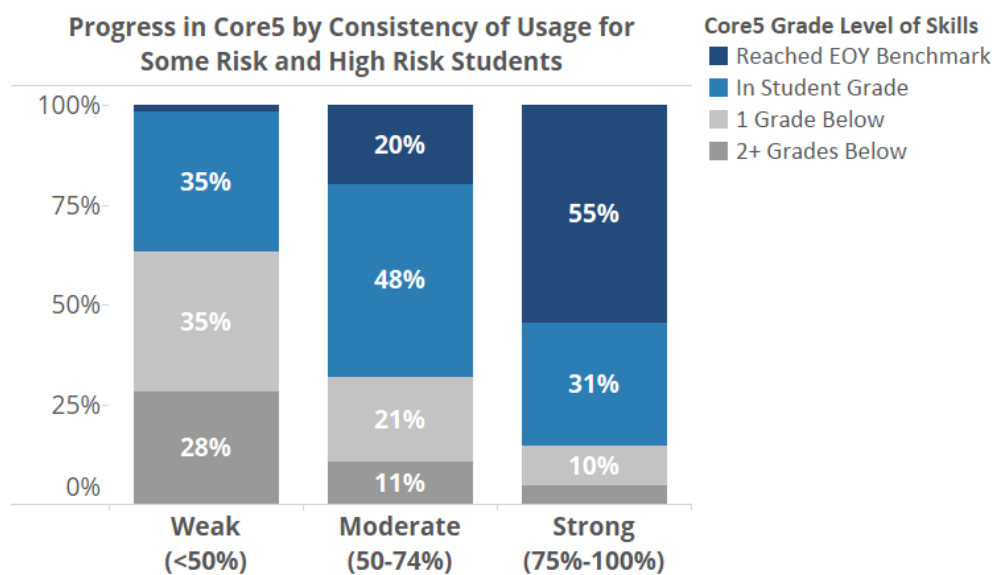
Sample

The sample consisted of 879,961 students in grades K – 5 who used Core5 for at least 4 weeks during the 2015-2016 school year. These students were from 8,262 schools across the United States. Each student had a November 1st Predictor score that fell in the Some Risk or High Risk category. These students used Core5 for an average of nearly 48 minutes a week for 24 weeks.

Progress in Core5 as a Function of Usage

Students were divided into three usage categories:

- Weak – met targets for 0-49% of their weeks of use.
- Moderate – met targets for 50-74% of their weeks of use.
- Strong – met targets for 75-100% of their weeks of use.

Some Risk and High Risk students are much more likely to reach their EOY, grade-level benchmark in Core5 when they consistently meet their usage targets. For students who showed strong usage, 55% reached their EOY, grade-level benchmark. An additional 31% ended the school year working on skills in their grade level. In contrast, only 2% with weak usage reached their EOY, grade-level benchmark. Most students with weak usage (63%) ended the school year still working on skills below grade.

Implications

Some Risk and High Risk students are much more likely to reach their EOY, grade-level benchmark in Core5 when they consistently meet their usage targets. For students who showed strong usage, 55% reached their EOY, grade-level benchmark. Reaching EOY, grade-level benchmark has implications that extend beyond Core5 performance. It has been established through validity testing that reaching EOY, grade-level benchmark in Core5 is highly predictive of positive outcomes on external measures of reading ability, including aimsweb®, DIBELS® Next, STAR Reading™, and NWEA™ MAP® (see lexialearning.com/research). Thus, a concerted effort to have Some Risk and High Risk students meet their usage targets can help elevate their performance both in Core5 and on external measures of reading ability.