



RESEARCH BRIEF

Effectiveness of Core5 in the LEAP Pilot Network

Key Findings

- In LEAP Pilot Network's first cohort, Core5 was one of only two EdTech programs to show a **statistically significant impact on students' MAP Growth Reading scores**.
- Following the promising results of Cohort 1, **Core5 was chosen more than any other program** by schools participating in Cohort 2.
- Significant effects of Core5 were also found in Cohort 2. A typical Core5 student scored **11 percentile points higher** than a comparable non-Core5 student on MAP Growth Reading.

Introduction

LEAP innovations is a national organization headquartered in Chicago that works directly with educators and innovators to discover, pilot, and scale personalized learning technologies and innovative practices. In 2014, LEAP launched its Pilot Network to pair Chicago-area school teams with EdTech products for year-long pilots of programs designed to promote personalized learning through differentiated instruction. LEAP conducted a rigorous curation process to identify EdTech products eligible for use in Pilot Network schools. A panel of learning experts independently reviewed and evaluated more than 150 products. Only 19 were deemed eligible for piloting. Lexia Core5 Reading (Core5) was one program that met LEAP's standards.

Each year, Chicago area schools were selected to participate in LEAP's Pilot Network. Each participating school chose an EdTech product that best met its needs. Throughout the pilot year, LEAP supported schools with professional development, on-site visits, and feedback to promote program implementation. Schools also received training and troubleshooting from their selected EdTech company. LEAP conducted rigorous evaluations of the first two pilot cohorts to determine the impact of the selected EdTech programs on student learning. This brief highlights LEAP's evaluation, with a focus on findings pertaining to Core5.

Study Design

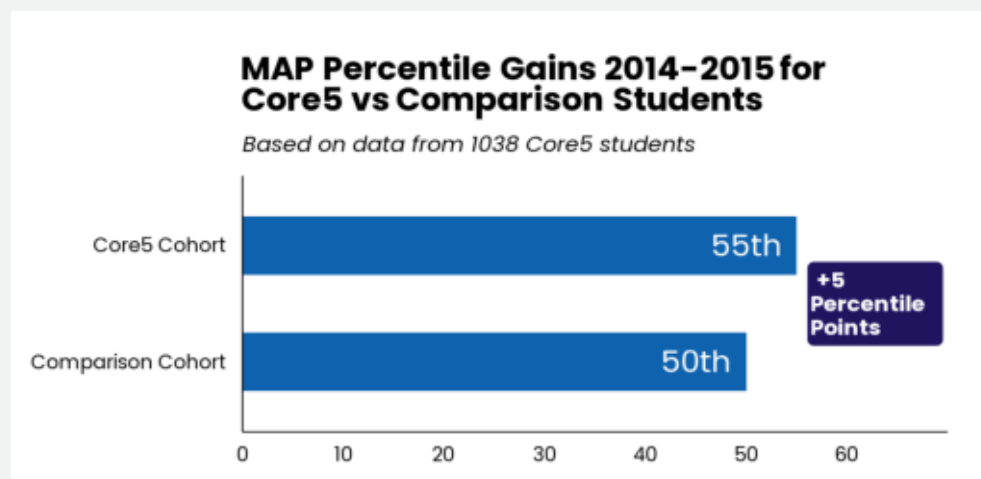
In the 2014-15 school year, 1,038 students in 63 classrooms piloted Core5, comprising Cohort 1 of the LEAP pilot. Cohort 2 consisted of 443 students in 18 classrooms that piloted Core5 in the 2015-16 school year. Student learning in grades 3-5 was assessed with the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth Reading interim assessment. MAP was used as an accountability and progress monitoring measure by Chicago Public Schools and was administered three times per school year (fall, winter, spring). LEAP examined student growth scores across one year, from the spring before the pilot started to the spring the pilot ended.

Using a quasi-experimental design, researchers applied propensity score matching to create a control (comparison) group of non-Core5 students who were as similar as possible to Core5 students in Pilot Network schools. The effects of Core5 were estimated with a series of multilevel models that controlled for student gender, race/ethnicity, economic status, special education status, English language learner status, and baseline test performance.

Results

In the first LEAP cohort, Core5 was one of only two EdTech programs to show a statistically significant impact on students' MAP Reading scores.

For students in the first cohort, use of Core5 resulted in a 1.42-point increase in MAP Reading scores above gains exhibited by comparison students. Put differently, a typical Core5 student gained 5 additional percentile points on MAP above a non-Core5 student starting with the same baseline score. According to LEAP's analysis, this translated to closing the achievement gap by 60% for low-income students and more than 100% for Black and Hispanic students. Core5 was one of only two programs in Cohort 1 to show statistically significant results.



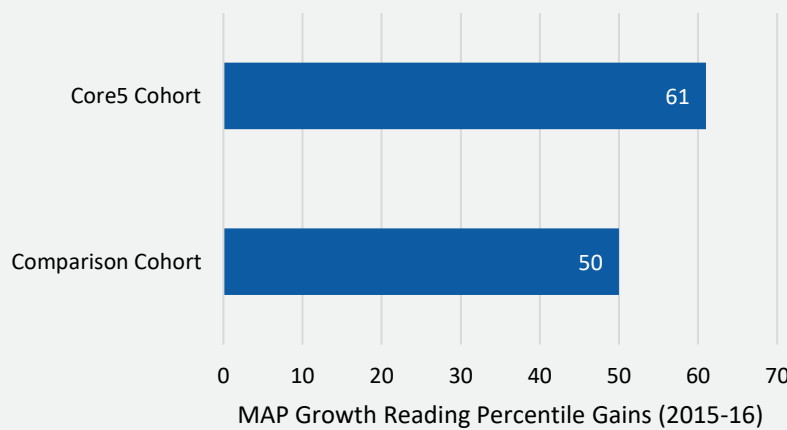
Students who used Core5 gained 5 additional percentile points on MAP above comparison students starting with the same baseline score.

Following the promising results of Cohort 1, Core5 was chosen more than any other program by schools participating in Cohort 2.

Schools in Cohort 2 of the LEAP Pilot Network selected from 16 EdTech products identified through LEAP's curation process. Eight of these 16 products were selected by participating schools: two reading and six math products. Five participating schools opted to pilot reading products. Core5 was chosen by four of the five schools, more than any other reading program selected by schools participating in Cohort 2.

Significant effects of Core5 were also found in Cohort 2. A typical Core5 student scored 11 percentile points higher than a comparable non-Core5 student on MAP Reading.

Students using Core5 in Cohort 2 (2015-16) demonstrated a 2.57-point advantage in MAP Growth Reading test scores relative to comparison students. Thus, a typical Core5 student scored 11 percentile points higher than a non-Core5 student with the same baseline score.



Students who used Core5 scored 11 percentile points higher than comparison students on MAP Reading.

Want to Learn More?

For more information and updates on research related to Core5, please contact research@lexialearning.com

References

LEAP Innovations. (2016). *Finding what works: Results from the LEAP Innovations Pilot Network 2014-15*. https://www.leapinnovations.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/PN_C1_Research_Brief_FINAL_red.pdf

LEAP Innovations. (2018). *Personalized learning(s) from the field: A report from the LEAP Innovations Pilot Network Cohort 2*. https://www.leapinnovations.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/LEAP_PNC2_Report_3-15-18_red-1.pdf



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