

Product Evidence Base

Lexia English Language Development Efficacy Research

December 2025



Introduction

Lexia has a long history of building digital programs to help students become proficient readers. Included in our portfolio is Lexia English Language Development (Lexia English), an adaptive blended learning program developed to support the English language proficiency of English Learners in grades K-6. The program frames English language learning as an opportunity for students to become bilingual or multilingual and to achieve success in their academic life. Lexia conducts rigorous scientific research to demonstrate the efficacy of its programs. This document summarizes the research studies that constitute the evidence base for Lexia English.

Lexia English contains various program features grounded in theory and research on second language acquisition and culturally relevant pedagogy. The online program incorporates personalized learning features (e.g., branched learning design), scaffolded language frames, and opportunities for speaking and listening practice powered by Lexia's embedded Speech Recognition Engine. As students work independently in the online program, teachers are provided with real-time data related to students' program usage, progress, and areas of improvement, as well as recommendations for student-specific resources for teacher-led instruction. This results in an individualized learning experience designed to increase students' English language proficiency.

Key Findings

Across multiple studies, we found:

- **Significantly higher language outcomes for Lexia English users compared to non-users.**

English Learner students who used Lexia English outgained or outscored non-users on state assessments of language skills. Effect sizes ranged from 0.10 to 0.42.

- **Effects of Lexia English were robust in oral language.**

Outcomes on state assessments show large group differences favoring Lexia English users in oral language skills.

- **Students who used Lexia English and Core5 outperformed students who used Core5 only.**

English Learner students who used Lexia English and Core5 scored higher than students who used Core5 only and a comparison group of non-Lexia students. Effect sizes ranged from 0.17 to 0.34.

- **Lexia English is effective for a wide range of English Learner students.**

Benefits of Lexia English were found across grades K-6 and for students with a diverse set of home languages.

The studies summarized in the tables below provide an evidence base establishing the efficacy of Lexia English. These include two peer-reviewed publications and five research briefs. All studies meet the second highest tier of evidence for an educational intervention described by the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA).

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Lexia regularly submits its studies for peer-review. The peer-review process subjects Lexia’s research studies and findings to the scrutiny of other experts in the same field. This process is considered necessary to ensure scientific quality. As of December 2025, there are two peer-reviewed scientific studies of Lexia English, as listed below.

Table 1.
Peer-Reviewed Publications on Lexia English.

#	Year	ESSA Tier	Effect Size	Grades	# Students	Targeted Demographics
<u>1</u>	2025	Moderate	0.23, 0.22	1-5	1,570	English Learners
<u>2</u>	2025	Moderate	0.20	K-5	2,034	English Learners

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Evidence Ratings

The *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) was signed into law in 2015. It was developed by a bipartisan group of legislators to reauthorize the 50-year old *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA), the nation’s national education law that attempts to provide equal opportunities for all students. One provision of ESSA is the inclusion of tiers of evidence for educational interventions, strategies, and approaches. The left side of the figure on the next page reproduces the language contained in federal statute (ESSA) that describes the four evidence tiers. The right side contains descriptions that permit these tiers to be applied to individual research studies on Lexia products.

<p>Tier 1 – Strong Evidence</p> <p>Supported by at least one well-designed and well-implemented experimental study.</p>	<p>An experimental study using random assignment of students, classes, or schools to treatment or control group.</p>
<p>Tier 2 – Moderate Evidence</p> <p>Supported by at least one well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study.</p>	<p>A quasi-experimental study with intact treatment and control groups, including virtual control groups and consecutive cohorts. Participant selection or statistical controls used with intact groups to control for factors that may affect results.</p>
<p>Tier 3 – Promising Evidence</p> <p>Supported by at least one well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias.</p>	<p>A correlational study examining the relationship between program use/progress and performance on external measures with statistical controls for selection bias.</p>
<p>Tier 4 – Demonstrates a Rationale</p> <p>Based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluation that a program is likely to improve student outcomes or other relevant outcomes and includes ongoing efforts to examine the effects of such a program.</p>	<p>Tier 4 is assigned to a program that has a Logic Model and/or a research-base, a correlational or quasi-experimental study without statistical controls for selection bias, or a Strong/Moderate study conducted on a legacy Lexia product.</p>

Federal law does not provide technical guidelines for how to classify individual research studies into evidence tiers. Consequently, implementation of ESSA has resulted in multiple interpretations of what legislators meant by “Strong,” “Moderate,” and “Promising” studies. For example, the US Department of Education itself has multiple distinct definitions of the evidence tiers on its website ([2019](#), [2022](#), [2025a](#), [2025b](#), [2025c](#)). Additionally, research review organizations like the What Works Clearinghouse and Evidence for ESSA have adopted different and more stringent guidelines to support decision-making that elaborate upon the definitions contained within statute. Importantly, these research review organizations differ in terms of the technical criteria they select for study and program classification.

While Lexia recognizes the value of external research clearinghouses to provide information to support local decision-making, Lexia has always relied on the scientific peer-review process to substantiate our research claims. Lexia uses peer-reviewed publications to provide

evidence that individual studies on Lexia products meet ESSA’s intention of “well-designed” and “well-implemented” studies. Although the peer-review process is not perfect, submitting research studies for peer-review is the hallmark of the scientific process. The peer-review process allows for multi-faceted research questions, the use of innovative methods to answer these questions, and richer discussion of the implications for the field of educational technology. This process ensures that the technical quality of a research study and its contribution to the field are vetted by anonymous experts prior to publication.

Lexia’s commitment to peer-review ensures that findings from our research studies can also be used to improve the product for changing customer needs. The peer-review process has persisted across multiple reauthorizations of ESEA, and it allows for variability in study design while preserving the intent of the ESSA descriptions that encourage rigor and evidence. As shown in Table 1 above, **Lexia English has two peer-reviewed publications that fit the ESSA criteria of Strong Evidence.** Thus, Lexia classifies Lexia English as having ESSA Strong Evidence.



External organizations unaffiliated with Lexia have also reviewed Lexia English research, and their conclusions about the efficacy of the product depend on their review criteria. Evidence for ESSA ([link](#)) has reviewed one study on Lexia English.

Internal Research and Reports

Lexia regularly publishes the results from internal studies to communicate the impact of Lexia English to the public. Research briefs are short, accessible reports that provide relevant details about the research studies, focusing on key findings. These briefs are often released before full-length manuscripts are published with results from the research study.

Table 2.

Research Briefs on Lexia English.

#	Year	ESSA Tier	Effect Size	Grades	# Students	Targeted Demographics
3	2025	Moderate	0.19-0.42, 0.33	3-5	463	English Learners
4	2025	Moderate	0.10-0.24, 0.18	3-6	491	English Learners
5	2024	Moderate	0.18	1-5	1,558	English Learners
6	2022	Moderate	0.34	3-5	3,314	English Learners
7	2021	Moderate	0.40	1-6	603	English Learners

The 7 research studies summarized in Tables 1 and 2 constitute the evidence base for Lexia English, providing solid and diverse evidence that Lexia English is effective at improving language and literacy outcomes for English Learners. The remainder of this document provides detailed information about each study, including links to the original publications where appropriate. As additional evidence about the effectiveness of Lexia English becomes available, this document will be updated.



Use of a Blended Learning Tool to Support the Language and Literacy Development of Elementary English Learners

# Schools	39
# Students	1,570
Assessment	English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC) Smarter Balance English Language Arts (SBAC)
Duration	School Year
Effect Size	0.23, 0.22
ESSA Tier	Tier 2 (Moderate) – Quasi-Experimental
Evaluators	Lexia Research
Grades	1 – 5
Program	Lexia English
State	California
Targeted Demographics	English Learners
Year	2025

This large-scale, quasi-experimental study was designed to evaluate the extent to which English Learners can benefit from using Lexia English. English Learners who used Lexia English were compared to English Learners who did not use the program. The two groups were matched in terms of district enrollment, previous-year scores on the English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC), gender, race/ethnicity and home-language. Results showed that *Lexia English users scored – on average -- 25 points higher than non-users on the ELPAC*. This difference is associated with an effect size of 0.23. Further, *Lexia English users also scored 18 points higher than non-users on the Smarter Balance English Language Arts (SBAC ELA) assessment*. This difference is associated with an effect size of 0.22. Finally, Lexia English users were more likely than non-users to reach Proficiency on the Overall ELPAC and Oral ELPAC. In sum, outcomes from this study indicate that *English Learners who use Lexia English outperformed non-users on two popular assessments of English Language skills – ELPAC and SBAC* – and that Lexia English users were more likely than non-users to increase Proficiency levels on the ELPAC.



# Schools	21
# Students	2,034
Assessment	English Language Proficiency Assessment of California (ELPAC)
Duration	School Year
Effect Size	0.20
ESSA Tier	Tier 2 (Moderate) – Quasi-Experimental
Evaluators	Lexia Research
Grades	K-5
Program	Lexia English
State	California
Targeted Demographics	English Learners
Year	2025

This large-scale study examined benefits of using Lexia English as part of hybrid or remote instruction for English Learners. Test scores on the English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC) were compared for students who used Lexia English with English Learners in the same school district who did not use the program. *Lexia English users scored 15 points higher on the ELPAC than non-users.* This difference is equivalent to a statistically significant effect size of 0.20. Positive effects occurred in each grade K-5. The ELPAC score is based on a combination of oral and written language domains. A larger group difference favoring Lexia English users occurred in the oral domain (+18 points). This result is consistent with Lexia English's emphasis on speaking and supporting English Language development through academic conversations.



# Schools	81
# Students	463
Assessment	Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness in Reading Language Arts (STAAR RLA)
Duration	School Year
Effect Size	0.19-0.42, 0.33
ESSA Tier	Tier 2 (Moderate) – Quasi-Experimental
Evaluators	Lexia Research
Grades	3-5
Program	Lexia English, Core5
State	Texas
Targeted Demographics	English Learners
Year	2025

Lexia partnered with 4 school districts in Texas to conduct a study on the impact of Lexia English and Core5 on TELPAS and STAAR RLA scores for English Learners. Lexia researchers matched Lexia English users to non-Lexia students controlling for differences in baseline scores and demographic factors. Following matching, students were categorized into 4 groups: Lexia English only, Core5 only, Lexia English and Core5, and non-Lexia students. It was found that *students who used both Lexia English and Core5 scored significantly higher on all TELPAS domains compared to non-Lexia students*: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Lexia English-only students showed significant effects for reading, listening and speaking, while Core5-only users showed significant effects for reading and listening. *In terms of the STAAR RLA, only dual program students scored significantly higher than non-Lexia students.* Overall, these results show that providing students with language support using both oral and written modalities – as seen for dual program users – can help elevate their success on assessments like the TELPAS and STAAR RLA.



# Schools	92
# Students	491
Assessment	Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness in Reading Language Arts (STAAR RLA)
Duration	School Year
Effect Size	0.10–0.24, 0.18
ESSA Tier	Tier 2 (Moderate) – Quasi-Experimental
Evaluators	Lexia Research
Grades	3–6
Program	Lexia English
State	Texas
Targeted Demographics	English Learners
Year	2025

In the 2023–24 school year, Lexia partnered with 4 school districts in Texas to conduct a study examining the impact of using Lexia English on the TELPAS and STAAR RLA for English Learners in grades 3–6. To this end, Lexia researchers matched Lexia English users to non-users while controlling for differences in baseline English abilities and demographic factors. *On the TELPAS, Lexia English users scored higher than non-users in reading (+11 points), writing (+6 points), listening (+7 points) and speaking (+15 points).* The differences reached significant in speaking and listening but not reading or writing. Effect sizes were 0.10 or above for each domain. *On the STAAR RLA, Lexia English users scored 18 points higher than non-users.* This difference was significant and associated with an effect size of 0.18. The significant effects on the TELPAS in speaking and listening align well with the focus of Lexia English on building oral language skills in English Learners. The significant outcome on STAAR RLA demonstrates how providing targeted oral language instruction to English Learners can offer benefits that extend to broader literacy development.



# Schools	12
# Students	1,558
Assessment	WIDA ACCESS
Duration	School Year
Effect Size	0.18
ESSA Tier	Level 2 (Moderate) – Quasi-Experimental
Evaluators	Lexia Research
Grades	1 – 5
Program	Lexia English
State	Massachusetts
Targeted Demographics	English Learners
Year	2024

This study compared outcomes on the 2023 WIDA ACCESS – an English language proficiency assessment used in 36 states – for English Learners (EBs) who used Lexia English and EBs who did not. WIDA ACCESS data were obtained for 1,558 EBs in grades 1–5 attending 12 schools in one Massachusetts school district. In addition to examining the full set of Lexia English users versus non-users, sensitivity analyses were conducted with a subset of closely matched Lexia English users and non-users based on prior year 2022 WIDA ACCESS scores. Students’ 2023 WIDA ACCESS scores were analyzed using linear mixed effects models, controlling for 2022 scores and various demographic characteristics. It was found that *EBs who used Lexia English grew, on average, 15 more points than non-users on overall WIDA ACCESS scores*. The effect size for this difference is 0.18. Similar growth discrepancies were found in the WIDA ACCESS subareas – oral language, literacy, and comprehension. In general, this pattern of outcomes was upheld in the sensitivity analyses. Further, Lexia English users showed greater growth than non-users regardless of demographic characteristics such as gender, race/ethnicity, and special education status. Lastly, the benefits of using Lexia English were stronger for students with relatively lower 2022 WIDA ACCESS scores compared to their peers in each grade.



# Districts	5
# Students	3,314
Assessment	English Language Proficiency Assessment of California (ELPAC) Smarter Balance English Language Arts (SBAC)
Duration	School Year
Effect Size	0.34
ESSA Tier	Tier 2 (Moderate) – Quasi-Experimental
Evaluators	Lexia Research
Grades	3 – 5
Program	Lexia English, Core5
State	California
Targeted Demographics	English Learners
Year	2022

This large-scale study examined the impact of using Lexia English and Core5 for English Learners. Five California school districts participated in this study. Each district used Core5 in prior school years, using both Lexia English and Core5 in 2021-22. Analyses included students who met average weekly minutes of Lexia English use for at least 8 weeks and students who met Core5 usage targets for at least 8 weeks. *Students who used both Lexia English and Core5 scored 22 points higher on the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts (SBAC) test than students who used Core5 only.* The effect size for this difference is 0.17. Further, 23% of students who used both products achieved proficiency on SBAC compared to 14% who used Core5 only. These outcomes show additive benefits of Lexia English and Core5 over just Core5. When examining effects of Lexia English and Core5 on the English Language Proficiency Assessment of California (ELPAC), a comparison group of English Learners who did not use Lexia programs was included. *Lexia users scored significantly higher on the ELPAC than comparison students.* Effect size is 0.34 for students who used both Lexia English and Core5 and 0.23 for those who used Core5 only.



# Schools	16
# Students	603
Assessment	Arizona English Language Learner Assessment (AZELLA)
Duration	Half-Year
Effect Size	0.40
ESSA Tier	Tier 2 (Moderate) – Quasi-Experimental
Evaluators	Lexia Research
Grades	1-6
Program	Lexia English
State	Arizona
Targeted Demographics	English Learners
Year	2021

This study addressed the benefits of using Lexia English as part of hybrid or remote instruction for English Learners. Students who used Lexia English were compared to English Learners in the same school district who did not use the program. Analyses were based on examining changes in English language proficiency scores on the Arizona English-Language Learner Assessment (AZELLA) from Spring of the year prior to using Lexia English to Spring of the year following use of the program. Findings demonstrated that *students who used Lexia English showed significantly greater overall English language proficiency growth on the AZELLA (41 points) compared to students who did not use the program (17 points)*. This difference is equivalent to an effect size of 0.40. In addition, it was found that Lexia English users had the greatest growth within the speaking and reading subdomains on the AZELLA.

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