

# Lexia PowerUp Literacy

2020–2021 School Year Results  
For Students in New York City

LEXIA



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## New York City Schools

### Program Description

Lexia® PowerUp Literacy® is a technology-based program proven to accelerate literacy gains for students in grades 6–12 who are reading below grade level. Designed for today's adolescent learner, PowerUp personalizes learning to support the diverse needs of struggling readers, whether they are several grade levels behind or show some risk of not meeting college- and career-ready standards. Proven to be up to 5x as effective as the average middle school reading intervention, PowerUp enables students to make multiple years of growth in a single academic year. High-interest authentic texts, game-based motivational elements, and self-monitoring tools keep teens engaged, and embedded assessment technology provides educators—regardless of their area of expertise—the right data to assess students' current skill level and to deliver the right instruction.

With the educational disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, students and educators across New York City encountered a number of different learning scenarios. Many students experienced fully remote education across the entire school year, and used PowerUp while learning from home. Other students returned to in-person learning at some point during the school year and used PowerUp in their school classrooms. Throughout the year, Lexia supported educators and students across a diverse, dynamic range of learning needs and implementations, and **students of all abilities made progress in advancing their reading skills.**

### Key Findings

- ▶ **Program Usage:** More than **7,000 students in grades 6-12 used PowerUp during the 2020-21 school year** across 153 schools in New York City. Struggling and non-proficient readers require substantial intervention to achieve literacy gains. On their way to achieving these gains, students used PowerUp for a total of nearly 31,200 hours during the 2020-21 school year.
- ▶ **Skills Growth:** New York City students completed more than 59,100 activities in PowerUp this year -- each supporting the instruction of several specific literacy skills. Students who used the online components of PowerUp as recommended **completed on average 66 activities** during the 2020-21 school year.
- ▶ **Literacy Advancement:** Students who used PowerUp as recommended made substantial advances towards grade-level content. Most of these students (82%) moved up at least two PowerUp zones across the year, where they worked on Intermediate or Advanced literacy skills. **Nearly half of these students (49%) covered three grade-levels of skills in just one year**, meaning they moved up one PowerUp zone or more in all three instructional strands (Word Study, Grammar, and Reading Comprehension).
- ▶ **Progress Towards College- and Career-Readiness:** At the start of the school year, 59% of students who used PowerUp as recommended were working on Foundational (grades K-2) skills in at least one instructional strand, putting them at risk of not meeting college- and career-ready standards. By the end of the year, only 11% of students were still working on any Foundational skills.

## Progress within Strands for Students Who Met Online Fidelity

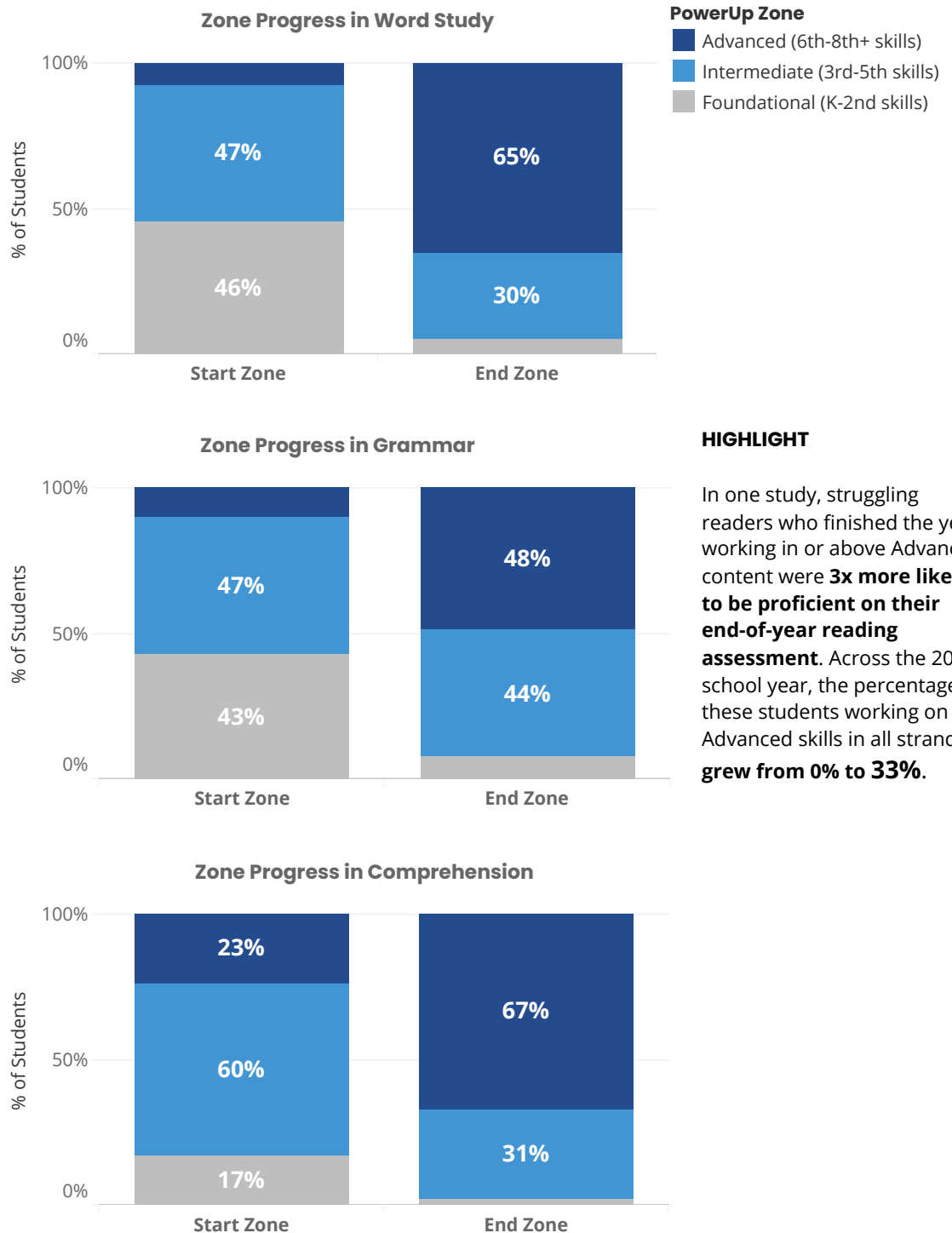
While students gain skills and make progress even during abbreviated implementations of PowerUp, students who consistently meet their usage targets make greater progress. Using PowerUp as recommended (*with minimum fidelity*) means using for at least 20 weeks and meeting individualized usage targets at least 50% of weeks used. Most students across NYC who met minimum fidelity completed sufficient content in the program to move up to higher zones. By the end of the year, **the percentage of these students working in the Foundational zone dropped below 10% in all three strands** (N=95).

### PROGRESS EXAMPLES

At the end of the year, students in the Advanced zone of Word Study were studying Greek and Latin word roots.

Students in the Advanced zone of Grammar at the end of the year were studying compound-complex sentences.

Students in the Advanced zone of Comprehension at the end of the year were reading complex texts in the 925L-1185L Lexile level range.



### HIGHLIGHT

In one study, struggling readers who finished the year working in or above Advanced content were **3x more likely to be proficient on their end-of-year reading assessment**. Across the 20-21 school year, the percentage of these students working on Advanced skills in all strands **grew from 0% to 33%**.

\*Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Efficacy study results from a 2019 validity report correlating PowerUp and FAST aReading scores.