RESEARCH MEMO:
RAND ESSA Moderate Study Finds that Core5 Helps Students Accelerate Learning

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Since the school closings in 2020, educators have been looking for ways to help students accelerate learning to recover lost ground. RAND Education and Labor, a division of the RAND Corporation, released a new study titled "Students Using Lexia® Core5® Reading Show Greater Reading Gains than Matched Comparison Students." Data for this study was provided by Lexia, part of Cambium Learning Group, and NWEA. RAND is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that helps improve policy and decision making through research and analysis. RAND evaluated the effects of Lexia® Core5® Reading (Core5) on the reading achievement of students in grades 3 - 5 during the 2021-22 academic year.

RAND researchers tracked the progress of students across 25 elementary schools in a southeastern United States district during the 2021-22 academic year. To gauge students' progress, schools administered NWEA's MAP Growth Reading assessment (NWEA's MAP), which measures reading achievement and growth. Researchers compared Core5 students' reading growth to similar students in similar schools nationwide that did not use Core5 that year.

Key Findings

- 54% of all Core5 students outperformed the comparison group's median on spring reading assessments
- 56% of high-usage students (students who completed all grade-level materials or met usage targets for at least 10 out of 20 weeks) showed greater reading gains than the comparison group's median on spring reading assessments.
- Even the lowest-performing students on the fall MAP assessment who met the usage targets experienced substantial gains.
- All subgroups of Core5 students experienced reading achievement gains relative to corresponding subgroups in the comparison group.
- Core5 students in all three grades made significant gains relative to pre-pandemic national norms, unlike the comparison group.
- Third grade students started the year significantly below norms and finished the year significantly above those norms when using Core5.

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