

## RESEARCH BRIEF

# Benefits of Core5 After Three Months of Use

## Key Findings

- After using Core5 for 3 months, **23% of students in an economically disadvantaged school** advanced through at least one grade level of material in Core5.
- Following Core5 use, **students classified as proficient on the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts assessment increased by 13%.**

## Introduction

Numerous research studies have demonstrated the benefits of Lexia Core5 Reading (Core5)<sup>1</sup> when implemented over a full school year. However, there are instances in which Core5 is implemented for shorter periods of time. For example, a district may decide to pilot Core5 for a few months or may purchase the program in the middle of a school year. This small-scale research study examined whether students exhibit meaningful reading gains when they use Core5 for less than a full school year.

## Study Design

Lexia partnered with an economically disadvantaged school district to conduct this research because students attending schools identified as low socioeconomic status (SES) are at heightened risk for reading difficulties<sup>2</sup>. Participants were 127 students across grades 3–5 from one elementary school located in an urban school district. Students used Core5 from March to May. Reading gains were examined using student progress in Core5, as well as the external Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium’s English Language Arts (SBAC ELA) summative test taken near the end of the school year.

Students begin Core5 by taking an online auto-placement assessment. The auto-placement results assign students to a start level in the program consistent with their reading ability and allows them to proceed at their own pace. To measure progress in Core5, we compared students’ initial placement levels to their ending levels during the time they used the program as part of instruction.

The SBAC ELA is a computer-adaptive online test that measures student reading achievement and growth. It aligns with the Common Core State Standards and was used by the school as a Spring ELA assessment for students in grades 3–5. Based on their overall scaled score, students are assigned to one of four performance categories: Did Not Meet Expectations,

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<sup>1</sup> Please visit the [Lexia website](#) for detailed information on Core5’s evidence base.

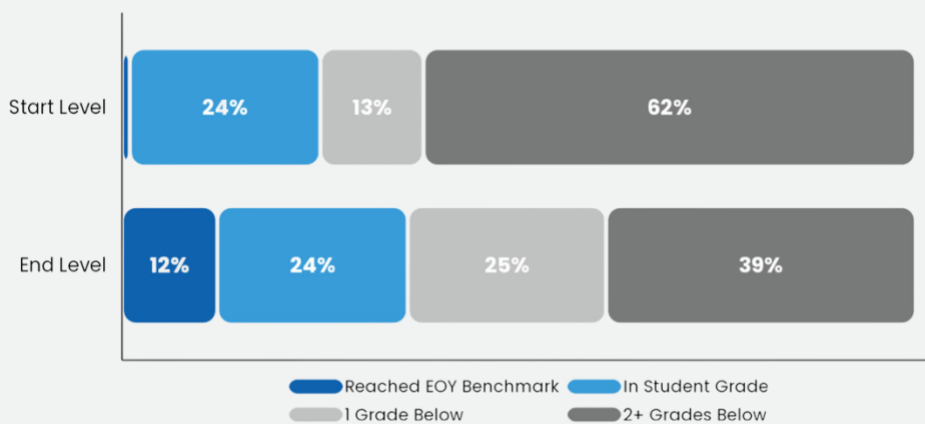
<sup>2</sup> National Assessment of Educational b (NAEP). (2022). NAEP Report Card: Reading. Retrieved from <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/reading/nation/achievement/?grade=4>

Nearly Met Expectations, Met Expectations, or Exceed Expectations. This study examined year-over-year performance on the SBAC ELA for students who had scores for two consecutive spring test administrations.

## Results

**After using Core5 for three months, 23% of students in an economically disadvantaged school advanced through at least one grade level of material in Core5.**

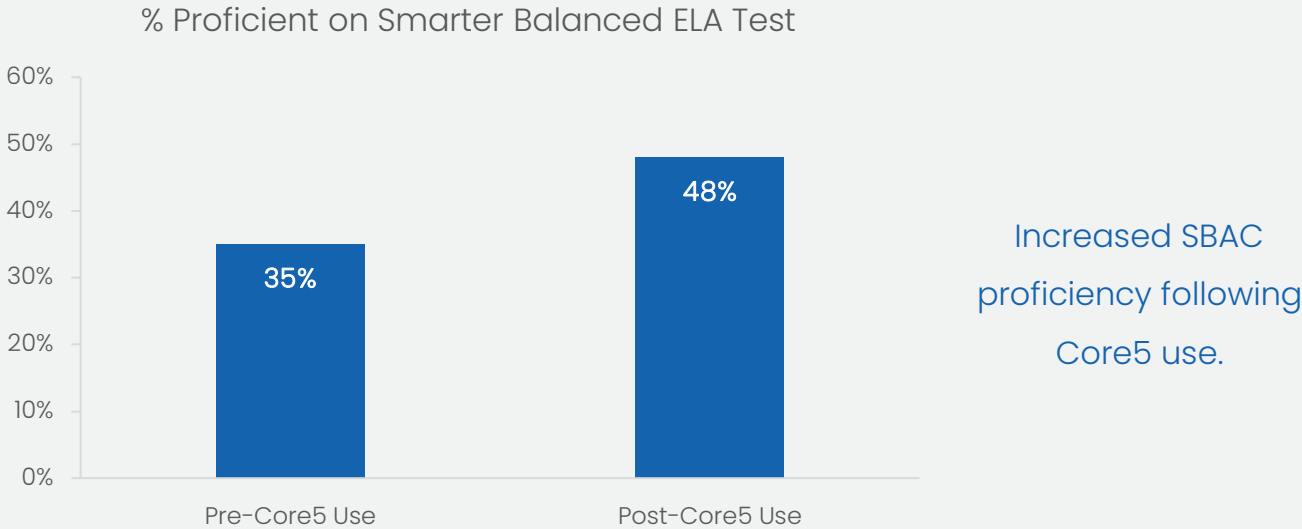
When students began using Core5, 62% were placed two or more levels below their current grade level. After three months of Core5 use, the percentage of students working two or more grade levels below their current grade had dropped to 39%. Twenty-three percent (23%) advanced through at least one grade level of material in just three months of Core5 use.



Advances in Core5 grade level material after three months of program use

**Following Core5 use, students classified as proficient on the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts assessment increased by 13%.**

A total of 78 students who used Core5 had SBAC scores in both the spring prior to Core5 use and the spring following Core5 use. For this analysis, students who Met or Exceeded Expectations were classified as Proficient, and those who Did Not Meet or Nearly Met Expectations were classified as non-Proficient. In the spring prior to Core5 use, 35% of students were classified as proficient on SBAC. In the year following Core5 use, 48% of students were classified as proficient on SBAC, reflecting a 13% increase.



**Want to Learn More?**

For more information and updates on research related to Core5, please contact [research@lexialearning.com](mailto:research@lexialearning.com).



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