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New Study Shows REED Charitable Foundation’s Teacher Training Demonstrates Strong Reading Gains and Meets ESSA Standards of Evidence in Grades K-2

Rigorous independent efficacy research demonstrates the power of REED Charitable Foundation’s Model School approach to support reading proficiency.

Winter Park, Florida – REED Charitable Foundation (RCF) announced today that its RCF Model School approach has earned the ESSA Evidence Badge for Tier 3 Promising Evidence for K-2. Schools that participated in RCF’s innovative literacy training and support program showed annual growth that was up to three times higher than the national norm, according to the independent evaluation released today. The rating confirms the program’s third-party research meets ESSA Standards of Evidence for demonstrating evidence of efficacy. This study was conducted by [LXD Research](#) and validated by reviewers at the International Certification for Evidence in Education (ICEIE), confirming the level of evidence. The RCF Model School approach was awarded the ICEIE Efficacy Silver certificate.

"As the President of RCF, this milestone of securing independent research to validate the effectiveness of our teacher training and implementation support brings both a deep sense of pride and validation. I also believe it reflects the thoughtful approach we have taken as an education nonprofit to not only understand the importance of evidence-based results but also our discipline as an organization to fund and pursue this critical research," said Jennifer Knopf, President at RCF.

"When product designers leverage learning sciences to design and evaluate the effectiveness of their programs, educators can better target instruction, and students' skills soar," said Dr. Rachel Schechter, founder of LXD Research. "This multi-school, multi-year quasi-experimental study demonstrates that the RCF Model approach meaningfully and positively impacts literacy skill development for all students."



In this correlational study, the RCF Model School approach was implemented in 3 schools with over 1500 students across two years of implementation, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. LXD Research analyzed students' performance on the nationally-recognized STAR Reading assessments to examine growth and proficiency status across implementation years. The study demonstrated substantial literacy growth for students in RCF Model Schools, with gains that increase with more years of implementation. First and second graders in Year 2 of implementation achieved literacy growth that significantly exceeded national growth norms, and there was a cumulative impact of multi-year implementation across grades. In addition, more students met or exceeded the proficiency benchmark by the end of the year, with students who started in the lowest percentile ranks making the greatest gains. By fostering an environment of ongoing professional learning and job-embedded support, RCF Model Schools appear to provide the robust support system that teachers need to enhance in student achievement year after year.

"We are thrilled to now have ESSA Evidence affirming the transformative impact of the RCF Model School approach on literacy outcomes. This evidence demonstrates that in a remarkably short time, the approach can drive significant improvements for all students, including those who have historically faced the greatest challenges in achieving meaningful gains. It's simple yet powerful: when educators receive effective training and support and are backed by strong leadership, everyone benefits – the school, the educators, the community, and most importantly, the children," said Jennifer Knopf, President.

RCF has earned the [ESSA IV](#) Research-Based Design badge, and the [ICEIE](#) Efficacy Bronze certification.

For the [Lookback study](#), RCF has earned the ESSA III Promising badge, and the ICEIE Effectiveness Silver certification.

The Lookback study is currently available for public-viewing on the [ERIC](#) repository and [ResearchGate](#).

About REED Charitable Foundation

REED Charitable Foundation (RCF) is a non-profit that provides structured literacy training informed by Orton-Gillingham, along with ongoing professional coaching, comprehensive materials, and continued implementation support to help all students learn to read. Visit <https://reedcharitablefoundation.org/>.



About LXD Research

Learning Experience Design (LXD) Research is an independent evaluation and research firm within Charles River Media focusing on educational programs. LXD Research specializes in research communication, efficacy study validation, and the design and execution of ESSA-aligned research studies. Visit www.LXDResearch.com.

About ICEIE

The International Certification of Evidence of Impact in Education (ICEIE) is a global not-for-profit organization committed to transforming digital education by evaluating and certifying edtech tools for K-12 learners. Born from extensive research, ICEIE has developed a comprehensive framework that measures edtech innovation and impact across multiple dimensions, setting a new international standard for quality in education technology. Visit <https://eduevidence.org/>.