

EFFICACY STUDY SUMMARY

GRADES K-2

2022-2024



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

REED Charitable Foundation (RCF) is a non-profit that provides structured literacy training informed by Orton-Gillingham, along with ongoing professional coaching, materials, and implementation support to help all students learn to read. RCF Model Schools are entire schools that receive this comprehensive training and support designed to provide all aspects of structured literacy instruction.

STUDY DETAILS

Sample Description

- 1691 students in grades K-2
- Receiving instruction in an RCF Model School

Time Frame

2022-2023 and 2023-2024

Implementation Description

- School-wide RCF training and implementation support
- Teachers participated in ongoing professional coaching and feedback
- Students received instruction via the RCF materials available in the RCF Resource Drive

Methodology

- T-tests to compare annual growth to national norms on STAR Reading
- Chi-squared tests to compare proportion of students attaining proficiency on STAR Reading



STUDY CONTEXT

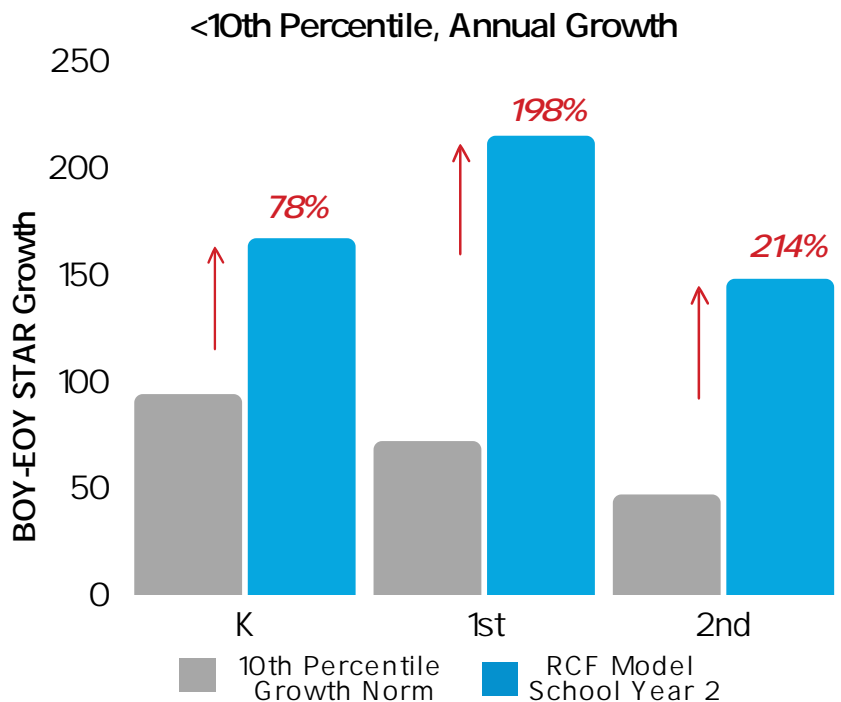
RCF hired LXD Research to evaluate the impact of the RCF Model School approach on students' literacy skill progress and development. The current correlational study evaluates the RCF Model School approach in 3 schools with over 1500 students across two years of implementation, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. LXD Research analyzed students' performance on the STAR Reading assessments to examine growth and proficiency status across implementation years.

KEY FINDINGS

- Students in Year 2 showed significantly higher growth from BOY to EOY compared to national norms.
- Students showed higher growth and higher proficiency levels in Year 2 than in Year 1.
- In Year 2 of RCF Model School implementation, kindergarteners who started below the 10th percentile exceeded expected growth by 78%, first graders by 198%, and second graders by 214%.



Students starting the year in urgent need of intervention showed annual growth that was up to 3x higher than the national norm



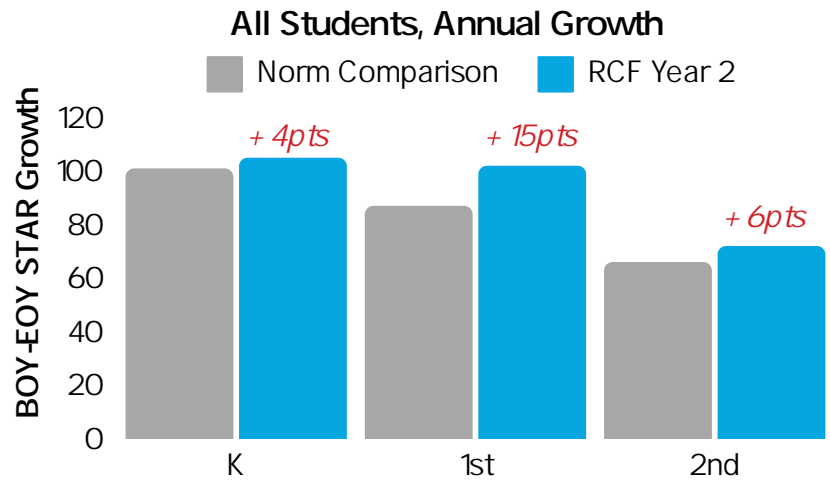
GROWTH COMPARED TO NATIONAL NORMS

The mean annual literacy growth for students in RCF Model Schools was compared to the expected growth according to national norms for students at the 40th percentile STAR proficiency benchmark. Students in Year 2 of RCF Model School implementation demonstrated greater literacy gains when compared to the growth expected at the proficiency benchmark. For inferential comparisons, growth scores were compared to the 2024 norming study means by grade.

Kinder Year 2 vs. STAR Norm, n.s.

1st grade Year 2 vs. STAR Norm: $p < .05$, Cohen's $d = 0.16$

2nd grade Year 2 vs. STAR Norm: $p < .05$, Cohen's $d = 0.16$



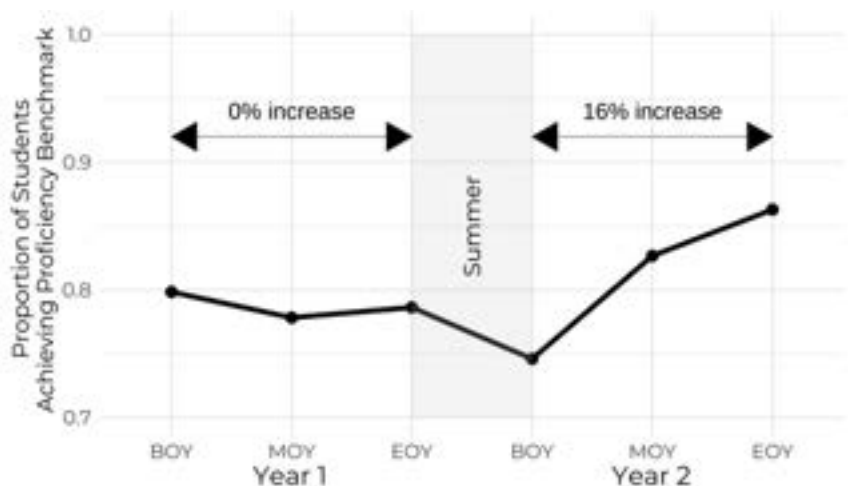
PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK ACHIEVEMENT ACROSS YEARS

A subset of the initial sample ($n = 443$) had STAR scores available for all three time points across both years of RCF implementation. This subset provided the opportunity to follow students longitudinally and examine how students progressed from their first year to their second year in RCF Model Schools. There was a significant increase in proficiency from BOY to EOY in Year 2 compared to Year 1 among students who were in first grade during Year 1 and in second grade during Year 2.

Year 1 vs. Year 2: $t(247) = 3.4$, $p < .001$

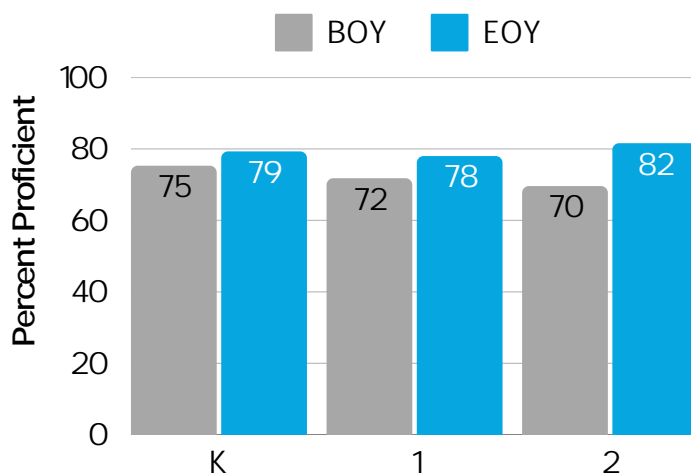
Cohen's d effect size = .43

First Grade Proficiency Status From Year 1 to Year 2



PROFICIENCY BENCHMARK ACHIEVEMENT IN YEAR 2

Proportion of Students Meeting Benchmark in Year 2



To determine whether RCF Model Schools effectively support students in closing reading gaps by bringing them up to grade level, the proportion of students reaching proficiency by the end of the year was assessed. The higher proportion of students meeting benchmark standards in the second year especially highlights how multiple years of implementation can leave a positive impact on student gains.

K: Chi-squared = 45.39, $p < .001$, Phi Coefficient Effect Size = 0.43

1st Chi-squared = 55.43, $p < .001$, Phi Coefficient Effect Size = 0.48

2nd: Chi-squared = 87.14, $p < .001$, Phi Coefficient Effect Size = 0.54