

# READING PARTNERS

## FIVE-YEAR STUDY FINDINGS

An independent, five-year study by Augenblick, Palaich, and Associates (APA) affirms the strength of the Reading Partners program in Colorado from 2012–2017.

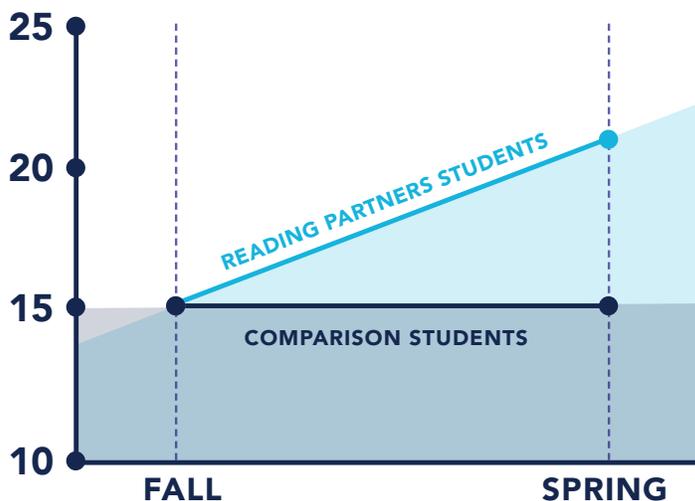
## READING PARTNERS WORKS

The impact study found that, on average, students who participated during one year had significantly higher spring assessment scores compared to similar students who did not participate. The program had a positive and statistically significant impact on student literacy skills, as measured by teacher-administered assessments.

### Impact Study Timeline



### Percentile Rank Improvement on Teacher-Administered Assessments



Between fall and spring assessments administered by teachers, the average Reading Partners student improved literacy scores by six percentile points, while similar comparison students remained at the same percentile rank. An increase in percentile rank indicates that a student has improved relative to his or her peers.



**For each additional tutoring session a student received, there was a small statistically significant positive effect.**

### Reading Partners Works for All Students

Reading Partners was effective for students across demographic groups. It was particularly effective for English Language Learner (ELL) students, who showed more growth and achieved higher spring assessment scores than non-ELL peers in the program.

## MORE ABOUT THIS STUDY

### Student Sample



### Student Demographics



APA used propensity score matching (PSM), a statistical method that uses student data to identify a comparison group similar to the treatment group (Reading Partners students) on key characteristics, including fall literacy score, socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, special education status, and English language skills. The impact analysis draws on Reading Partners and school district administrative data—as well as school leader interviews and surveys—to examine student literacy outcomes.

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### PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

**Implementation Successes:** Reading Partners was able to quickly launch, sustain, and implement its program with fidelity in a new region.

**Implementation Challenges:** It was difficult to ensure that students consistently received two sessions per week. There were notable changes to key aspects of the program, like literacy assessments and the curriculum.



### Implementation Study Timeline



About 90% of tutoring sessions were provided by community volunteers.



Average number of sessions Reading Partners students received per school year.



Students served from 2012 to 2016. During the same time period, Reading Partners engaged 3,393 volunteer tutors.

Fidelity measures how closely local program implementation follows Reading Partners' national program model.

To study fidelity, APA analyzed attendance data, reviewed a sample of student folders, and interviewed regional staff and school partners. APA examined the frequency and consistency of tutoring sessions, who delivered tutoring, tutor records of session activities, and other aspects of program fidelity.

### STUDY TAKEAWAYS



Reading Partners was able to implement its program with fidelity in a new region, resulting in significant increases in the reading skills of participating students compared to a similar group of nonparticipants.



Reading Partners is a national literacy nonprofit that partners with under-resourced schools and engages community volunteers as tutors. Trained volunteers work one-on-one with students for 45 minutes twice a week, following a structured, research-based curriculum.



APA Consulting is an independent education research and evaluation company with 33 years of experience. In cooperation with Mile High United Way and the Corporation for National and Community Service's Social Innovation Fund, APA conducted a five-year evaluation of Reading Partners.