Students’ SEL skills were assessed through surveys of their classroom teachers completed when students enrolled in Reading Partners’ program (pre-test) and again at the end of the school year (post-test). In each of these surveys, teachers reported on five key SEL skills:

- **Social Competence**: A student’s ability to understand and take peers’ perspectives, work well with peers, positively resolve problems, and behave appropriately according to social norms.
- **Persistence**: A student’s ability to continue working toward a goal in spite of obstacles, discouragement, or difficulties.
- **Self-Control**: A student’s ability to control emotions and behavior, sustain attention or focus on a given task, and wait his or her turn or for what he or she wants.
- **Reading Engagement**: A student’s level of participation, attention, interest, curiosity, and motivation specifically in reading activities.
- **School Engagement**: A student’s level of participation, attention, interest, curiosity, and motivation in school activities broadly.

83% of students improved their social-emotional learning skills* by the end of the school year.

* Significant gains made in four out of five SEL skill areas (shaded above).

**READING ENGAGEMENT**

The study suggests that Reading Partners students experienced the largest gains in reading engagement, followed by persistence.

**POSITIVE, WARM RELATIONSHIPS**

Warm and positive student-tutor relationships were favorably associated with students’ development of persistence and school engagement.

Study findings about student SEL skills are promising but based on a small sample of students and reflect teacher perceptions, rather than those of students themselves. While the study demonstrates Reading Partners’ interest and investment in SEL, the results should be considered exploratory in nature.