RESEARCH BRIEF

Greater Usage of DreamBox Reading Plus Led to Greater Growth on SC READY Scores

Data indicates that DreamBox Reading Plus usage is associated with higher growth in ELA outcomes, regardless of achievement level, race, gender, or special designations.

Study Purpose

The goal of this study, conducted by McREL International and validated by LearnPlatform as meeting ESSA Level III (Promising) requirements, was to understand how a district's use of DreamBox Reading Plus relates to both students' levels of attainment in the program and their standardized test scores on the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Assessments (SC READY).

The hypothesis was that ELA growth outcomes for key subgroups of students would correlate to DreamBox Reading Plus usage, which provides differentiation, scaffolding, and continuous formative assessments.

Researchers Asked:

- How is the use of DreamBox Reading Plus associated with fall to spring growth on SC READY?
- How is the use of DreamBox Reading Plus associated with students meeting or exceeding their Added Value Target (AVT) on SC READY?
- What percent of students that grew in Reading Plus by 1-2 levels also grew 1-2 achievement levels in SC READY?

Summary of Findings

One hour per week of DreamBox Reading Plus is associated with **significantly higher growth on SC READY** ELA outcomes.

DreamBox Reading Plus effectively personalizes reading support for all different types of students.

Students with special designations (ELL, IEP, gifted, learning accommodations) **were twice as likely to meet their Added Value Target** when they completed 80 DreamBox Reading Plus lessons for the 2022-2023 school year.
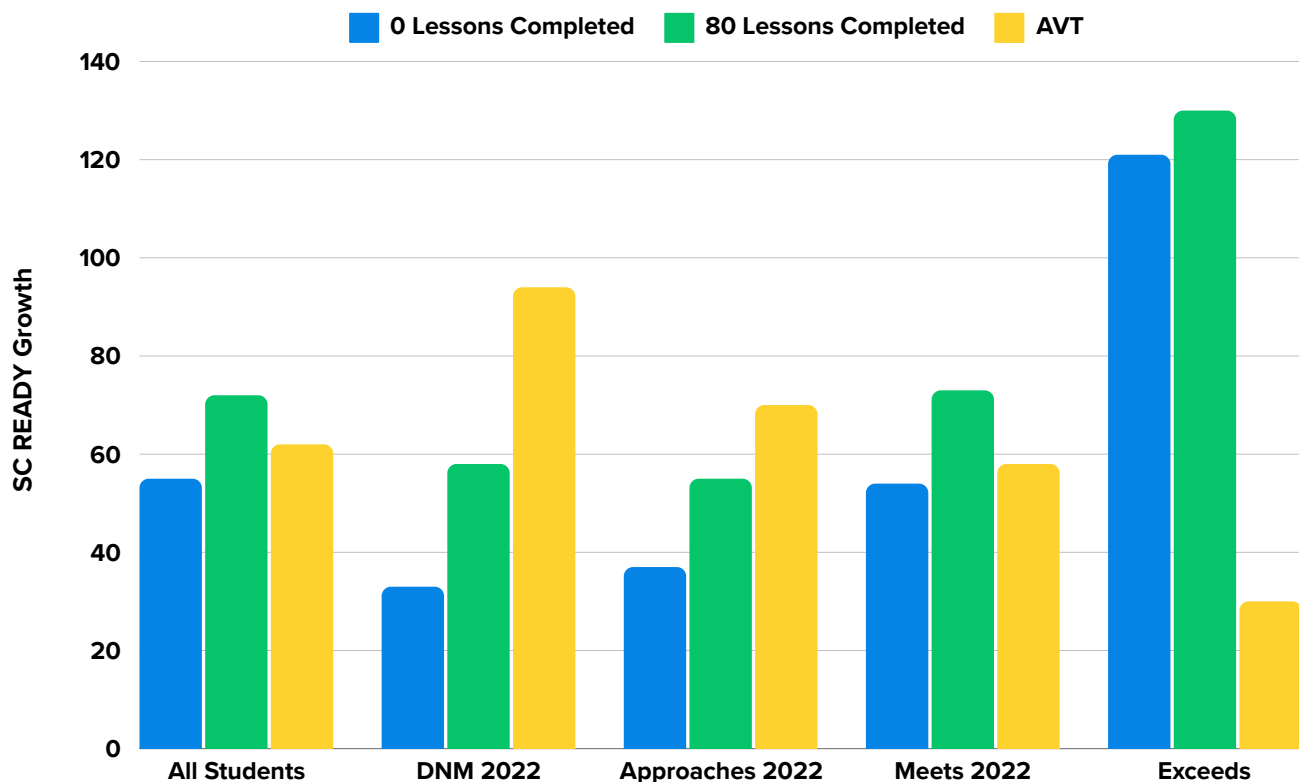
The above results are consistently seen across subgroups of students:
- Lowest and highest achievement levels
- Elementary and middle school grades
- Students with special designations
- Gender and race

Key Takeaways

Completing more lessons in DreamBox Reading Plus is associated with higher growth on SC READY scores for all achievement levels. At a benchmark of 80 lessons per year, this reflects consistent classroom usage. This association holds true across grade levels, race, gender, and special designations (see page 3). The effects of 80 lessons per year (~2-3 per week across a 30-40 week school year) are considered "substantively important" effect sizes according to guidance from What Works Clearinghouse.

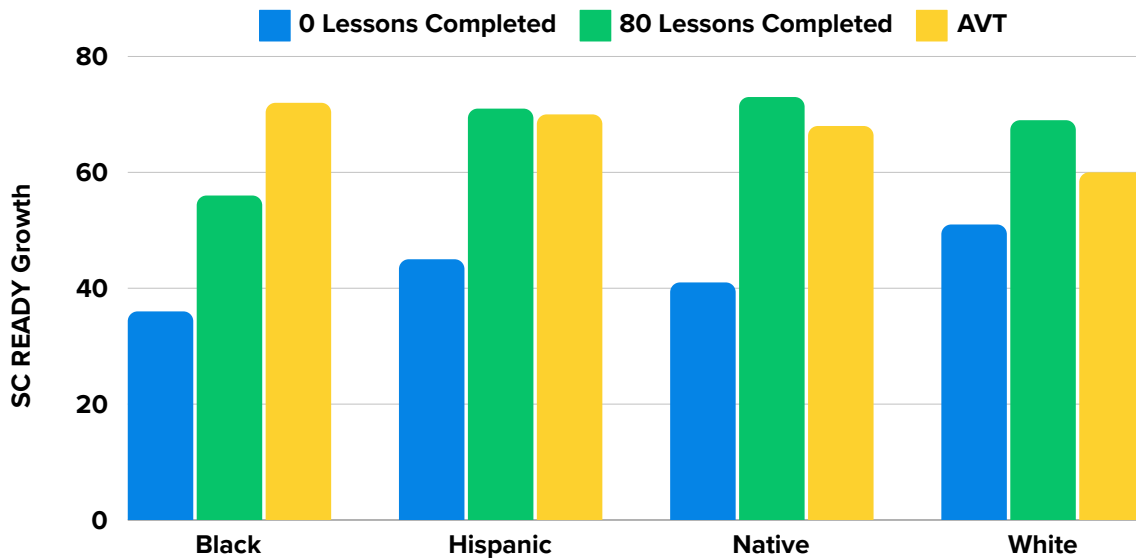**DreamBox Reading Plus Lessons Completed and SC READY Growth**

Note: AVT represents the average added value target for the group. DNM 2022 is a subgroup of students who did not meet standards on the SC READY ELA assessment in 2022. Likewise, the other designations indicate student performance level in the year prior. To see the growth distribution for each achievement group please see Figures A.1-A.5 in the full McREL report.
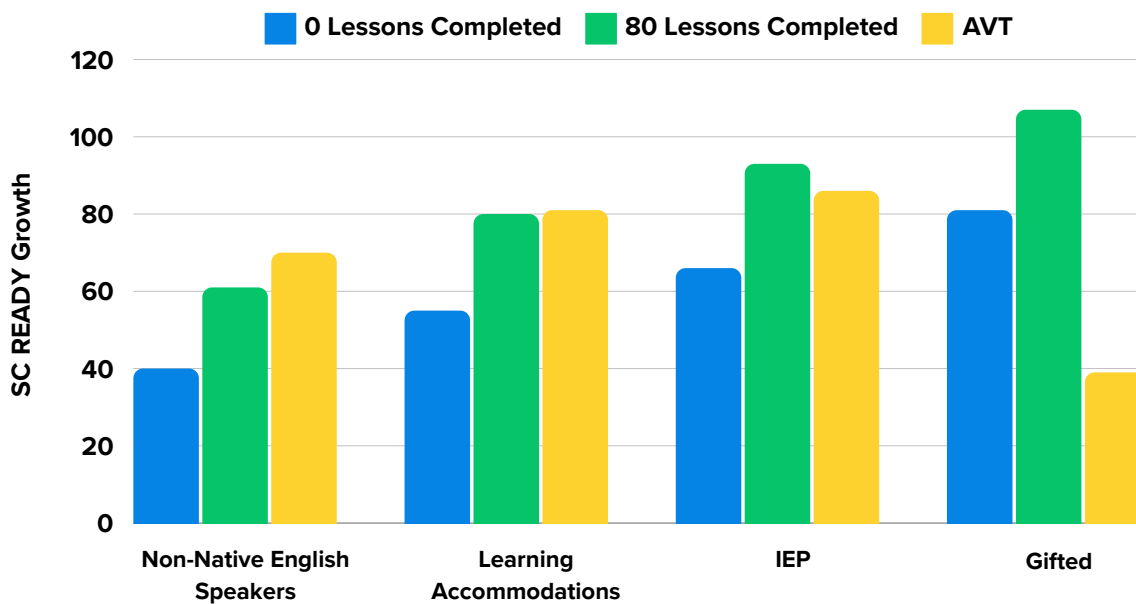
Key Takeaways

As mentioned on page 2, completing more lessons in DreamBox Reading Plus is associated with higher growth on SC READY scores for key subgroups of students.

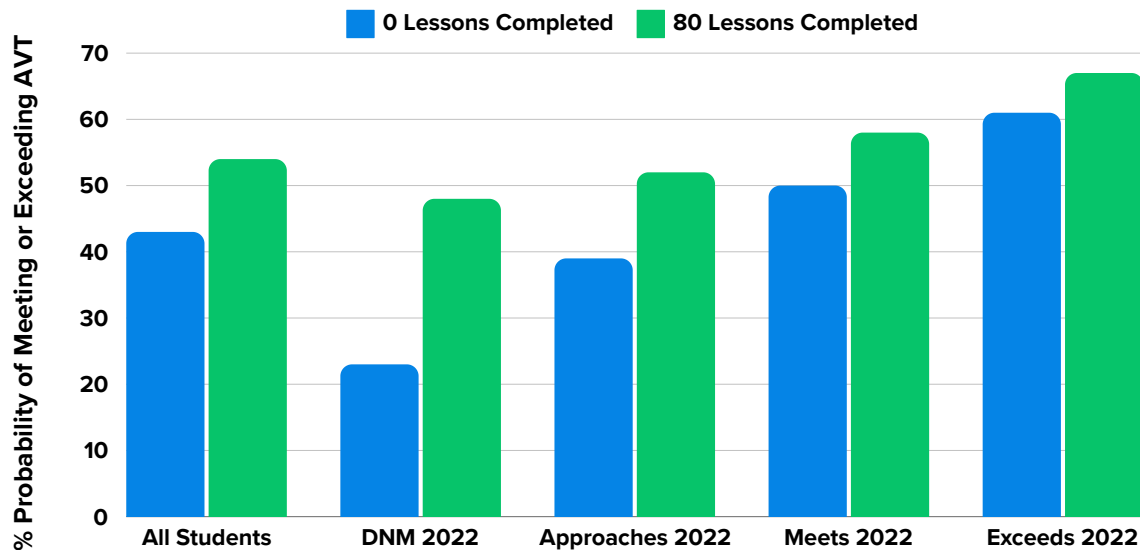## DreamBox Reading Plus Lessons Completed and SC READY Growth: Race

DreamBox Reading Plus Lessons Completed and SC READY Growth: Special Designations
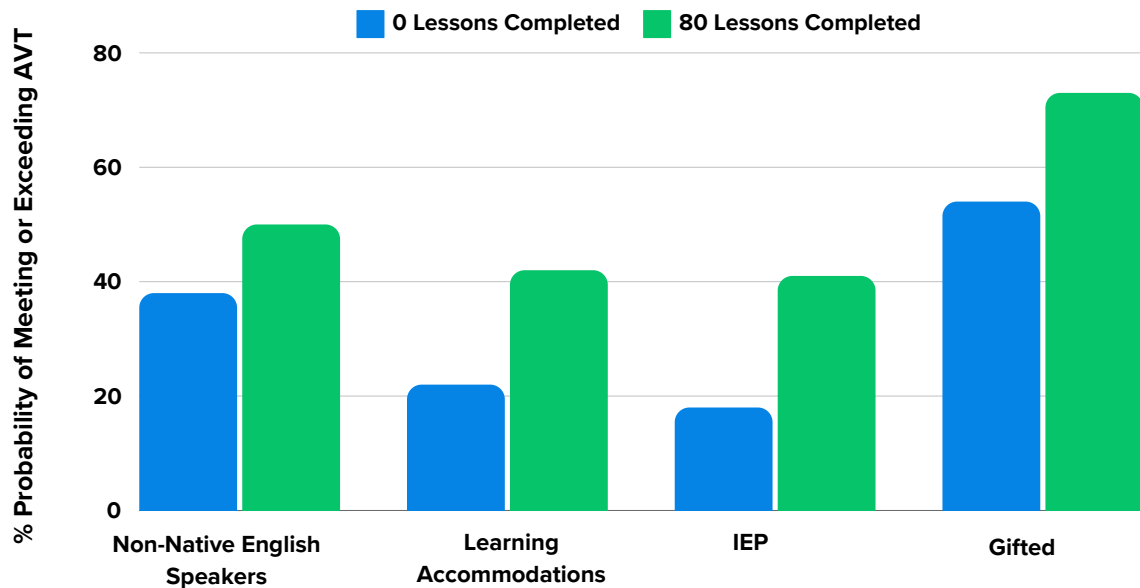
Key Takeaways

Completing more DreamBox Reading Plus lessons is associated with a higher probability of meeting or exceeding the Added Value Target (AVT). Students with special designations were twice as likely to meet their Added Value Target when they completed 80 DreamBox Reading Plus lessons during the 2022-23 school year.

DreamBox Reading Plus Lessons Completed and AVT

DreamBox Reading Plus Lessons Completed and AVT: Special Designations

Refer to the chart on the previous page for Average Value Targets of this subgroup.

Key Takeaways

Growth in Reading Plus is associated with ELA achievement growth on the SC READY exam. Of those students identified as "Does Not Meet," "Approaches," or "Meets" for the 2022 SC READY exam, a higher percentage in each group who grew 1-2 levels in DreamBox Reading Plus also grew 1-2 levels in SC READY achievement.

Conclusion

The effects from DreamBox Reading Plus are consistently seen across different types of learners and grade levels. The groups for which effects were positive include: all proficiency levels on the SC READY exam, all special designations (Non-native English speakers, IEP, learning accommodations, gifted), gender, and race.

Overall, DreamBox Reading Plus is strongly associated with SC READY achievement and ELA growth. This holds true across grades and key subgroups, leading to the conclusion that DreamBox Reading Plus is effectively personalizing reading support for all different types of learners.

Study Background

Research Sample Data
- 9,319 K-8 students from one South Carolina school district
- Analyses were conducted for:
    - SC READY achievement levels
    - Elementary and middle grade bands
    - Gender and race (Black, White, Hispanic, Native American, Asian/Pacific Islander)
    - Special designations: IEP, learning accommodations, non-native English speakers, gifted

Analysis Plan
- Multilevel modeling to predict the association between Reading Plus usage and growth on SC READY and AVTs
- Models controlled for prior achievement and demographics

Metrics of Interest
- SC READY growth from Spring 2022 to Spring 2023
- Whether students met or exceeded their Added Value Target (AVT)
- DreamBox Reading Plus lessons completed in the 2022-23 school year (recommended ~80 lessons per year)