

ESSA
Level 2
Evidence



**95 PHONICS
BOOSTER
BUNDLE
EFFICACY
STUDY**

**LXD RESEARCH
95 PERCENT GROUP**



Learning Experience Design,
Evaluation, and Consulting
a division of Charles River Media Group

95 Phonics Booster Bundle™: Summer School Edition & Tune-Up

Level 2 ESSA Evidence: Efficacy Study with Acadience® Reading K-6

Conducted by Rachel Schechter, Ph.D. and LXD Research at Charles River Media Group

Executive Summary

The Summer School Edition (SSE) and Tune-Up (TU) of the Phonics Booster Bundle were developed to provide teachers with an explicit phonics program to quickly address learning loss during summer school and as school resumes in the fall. Educators use this 25-day structured literacy-based program during the summer or at the beginning of the school year to cover critical skills right away - even before all BOY assessments are completed.

The 95 Percent Group partnered with LXD Research to conduct a third-party evaluation of 95 Phonics Booster Bundle Summer School Edition (SSE) and Tune-Up (TU) as it was implemented in two summer schools in 2021 in California and Arizona. The districts provided summer school with daily SSE instruction to rising first through third-grade students as the phonic component of their districtwide summer literacy programs. This report includes the results of those two studies, which are separated due to the very different implementation methods used at each site (the CA district taught SSE once a day over 6 weeks, while the AZ taught SSE twice a day over 10-15 days). Combined, these studies included nearly 1,000 students (479 summer school students and 479 statistically similar comparison students).

Evaluation Overview

The evaluation aimed to answer the following questions:

1. To what degree did students in the summer school group demonstrate early literacy outcomes that exceeded the outcomes obtained by the students in the matched comparison groups (that did not attend a summer school with the SSE)?
2. What is the relationship between scores on Acadience and scores on the 95 Percent Group SSE's pre-test and post-test?
3. To what degree did summer-school teachers find the program and its measures to be socially valid (i.e., acceptability of the goals, procedures, and outcomes)?
4. How did teachers perceive the SSE?

Methods

Study 1 in California used the SSE once a day over a 6-week long summer program, while Study 2 in Arizona used the SSE twice a day in an intensive program that ran over 4 weeks. Both districts assessed students using Acadience before and after the summer and used the SSE formative assessments to monitor growth at both the beginning and the end of the summer. LXD Research collected and analyzed quantitative data through teacher surveys and student assessments, reading achievement data shared by the district for students (Grades K-2, Spring 2021), and summer attendance data from Summer 2022.

Highlighted Successes from Study 1

- **All Students:** Average composite scores on *Acadience Reading K-6* significantly increased from Spring 2021 to Fall 2021 for all rising second graders (N=104; [Figure 1](#) for additional details).
- **Well Below Benchmark Students:** Average composite scores increased for rising first and second graders (R1 N=63, R2 N=60; also Figure 1) who were Well Below Benchmark in Spring 2021.

Figure 1. Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 Acadience Composite Score Averages



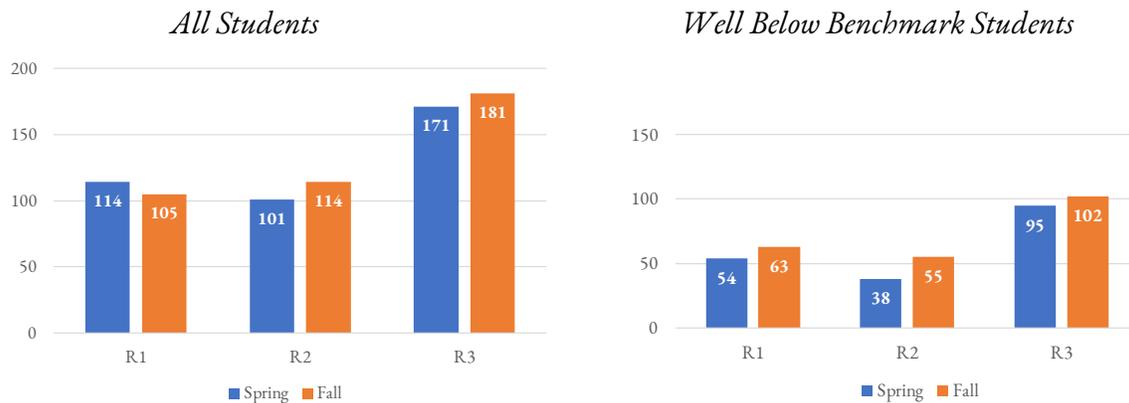
- **Comparing Summer School to Non-Summer School Students:** For rising first graders (N=103), SSE students significantly outperformed the Non-SSE students on Fall 2021 Acadience (+8 points vs. -6points; Figure 2).

Figure 2. Composite Score Gains from Spring to Fall SSE and Non-SSE Students for Rising First Graders

Highlighted Successes from Study 2

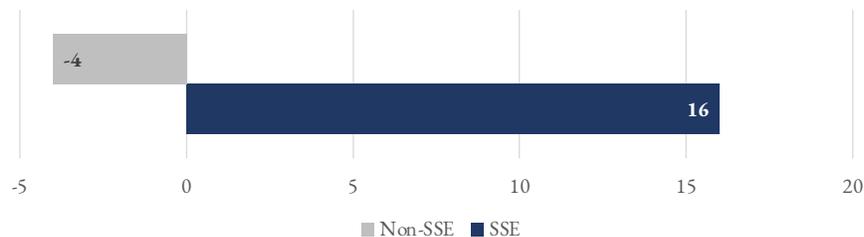
- **All Students:** Average composite scores on *Acadience Reading K-6* significantly increased from Spring 2021 to Fall 2021 for all rising second and third graders (R2 N = 141, R3 N= 217; see [Figure 5](#) for additional details).
- **Well Below Benchmark Students:** Average composite scores increased for all grades (R1 N = 51, R2 N= 82, R3 N=51; [Figure 5](#)).

Figure 5. Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 Acadience Composite Score Averages by Grade



- **Comparing Summer School to Non-Summer School Students:** For rising third graders who were Well Below Benchmark in Spring 2021 (N=113), SSE students significantly outperformed the Non-SSE students on Fall 2021 Acadience (+16 points vs. -4 points; Figure 9). Notably, more than twice as many students advanced beyond the Well Below Benchmark category (24% in SSE and 11% in Non-SSE; see [Figure 10](#) for additional details).

Figure 9. Rising Third Graders in SSE Make Significantly Higher Gains than Non-SSE



Teacher Survey Summary

Most of the 70 respondents noted that the pre-planned Booster Bundle teaching materials made the lessons much easier to follow and implement in the classroom given the minimal amount of preparation work needed ([see](#) Figure 11 for more details). Teachers also reported that students' abilities and prior knowledge ranged widely, and so it was difficult to meet all students' needs in whole group instruction (small group and 1-1 instruction was rarely provided). Overall, teachers thought the program helped their students learn phonics skills over the summer.

Complete Illustrative Quote

“I really like this program and am looking forward to our new phonics set in the fall. I liked that the workbooks had a set of chips for each student. I feel like completing all the lessons in such a short time did not allow for mastery, but the students did benefit from it. This program had some components that I was not familiar with, like the syllable mapping. This was a good addition to the syllable routines that we had used during the school year.”

Conclusion

Students and teachers at two similar districts in two separate parts of the nation used different implementations of the 95 Phonics Booster Bundle: Summer School Edition to support student preparedness for the Fall of 2021. This evaluation aimed to assess how exposure to SSE influenced students' reading achievement using Acadience K-6 as the outcome measure. Examining data from multiple sources, this report highlights and provides context for how SSE positively influenced student outcomes for all three grades across the two locations. Students who were Well Below Benchmark on Acadience in Spring 2021 gained the most benefits from using the SSE over the summer.

For additional information, please contact 95Percent Group Inc., at 847-499-8200 or info@95percentgroup.com.



For additional information, please contact
95Percent Group, LLC, at 847-499-8200 or
info@95percentgroup.com