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IMSE Orton-Gillingham Plus (OG+) Efficacy Summary Report Grades 1–3, 2021–2022

Institute for Multi-Sensory Education. (2024). The effectiveness of IMSE's structured literacy approach: Kent State University study. Retrieved from https://imse-production-010821.s3.amazonaws.com/IMSE.Kent.State.Report_240105.pdf

**By The Research and Evaluation Bureau at Kent State University
Prepared By Rachel Schechter Ph.D.**





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MODERATE

LXD Research Recognition for IMSE's Orton-Gillingham Plus (OG+)



institute for
multi-sensory
education



This product has been rigorously evaluated and is hereby acknowledged for meeting the educational impact criteria of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), warranting a **Level 2** for "Moderate" Evidence. This recognition is based on its proven effectiveness in enhancing grade-level learning outcomes.

REVIEWED BY THE LXD RESEARCH EXPERT REVIEW PANEL

CERTIFIED BY:



Rachel Schechter, Ph.D.
Founder of LXD Research

April 2025

DATE

Educators search for high-quality research and evidence-based interventions to strengthen grant applications, to support comprehensive and targeted schools, or to implement new programming in their schools. Evidence requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) are designed to ensure that states, districts, and schools can identify programs, practices, products, and policies that work across various populations.

Educational programs document their evidence of design, effectiveness, and impact in order to be eligible for federal funding. While there is no singular authority that determines a program's tier, the Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology provides standards to assess the varying levels of strength of research for education products.

The categories for ESSA Evidence are: strong (Tier 1), moderate (Tier 2), and promising (Tier 3) evidence of effectiveness, or demonstrates a rationale to be effective (Tier 4).

This product meets the requirements for Tier 2:

- ✓ In a quasi-experimental design, students who used the program are examined against a comparison group who did not use the program.
- ✓ At least one quasi-experimental study with the proper design and implementation with at least two teachers and a multi-site sample of 350 students showed statistically significant, positive findings.
- ✓ The study uses a program implementation that could be replicated.
- ★ A third-party research organization has reviewed the documentation for ESSA validation.



When product designers leverage learning sciences to design and evaluate the effectiveness of their programs, educators can better target instruction, and students' skills soar. A quasi-experimental study design using standardized assessment data, an analysis of student growth, and educator feedback demonstrates this product's efficacy, meeting the criteria for LXD Research's ESSA Tier 2 Evidence.

– Rachel Schechter, Ph.D., Founder of LXD Research



EFFICACY STUDY SUMMARY

GRADES 1-3

2021-2022



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

IMSE Orton-Gillingham Plus (OG+) is a Structured Literacy program designed for K-3 foundational literacy and intervention for older students. Rooted in explicit, systematic, and cumulative instruction, it builds phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension through multisensory techniques and guided practice. This evidence-based curriculum equips educators with the tools to teach every student to read.

STUDY DETAILS

Sample Description

- **Total students:** 1,183 (Grades 1-3)
- **Treatment group:** IMSE OG-trained teachers
 - 2 elementary schools
 - 7 first-grade, 6 second-grade, 6 third-grade teachers
- **Control group:** Non-IMSE OG-trained teachers
 - 3 elementary schools
 - 13 first-grade, 12 second-grade, 12 third-grade teachers
- **Location:** Two Michigan school districts

Time Frame

- Fall 2021 - Spring 2022 (30+ weeks)

Methodology

- **Study Design:** Quasi-experimental design with treatment and control groups.
- **Instructional Model:** Treatment teachers completed 30 hours of professional development and implemented IMSE OG+ in daily 30-minute sessions, five times per week. The control group followed district-standard literacy instruction.
- **Assessment Measure:** Oral reading fluency (ORF) scores measured via AIMSweb at fall (baseline) and spring (outcome).
- **Statistical Analysis:** ANCOVA assessed student growth, controlling for baseline ORF differences.

STUDY SUMMARY

IMSE contracted with the Research and Evaluation Bureau at Kent State University to evaluate the impact of its Orton-Gillingham Plus (OG+) program on early elementary student reading outcomes. The quasi-experimental study followed ESSA guidelines for moderate evidence, analyzing student progress in oral reading fluency (ORF) from fall to spring. Results showed that students taught by IMSE OG-trained teachers demonstrated significantly greater ORF growth than their peers in a control group, reinforcing OG+ as an effective, research-based literacy intervention.

The study included 1,183 students from two Michigan school districts, comparing IMSE OG+ instruction to standard district literacy practices. ORF was measured using AIMSweb assessments at the beginning and end of the school year. ANCOVA analyses confirmed that IMSE OG+ students showed significantly greater gains, particularly in grades 1 and 3, meeting ESSA's criteria for moderate evidence.

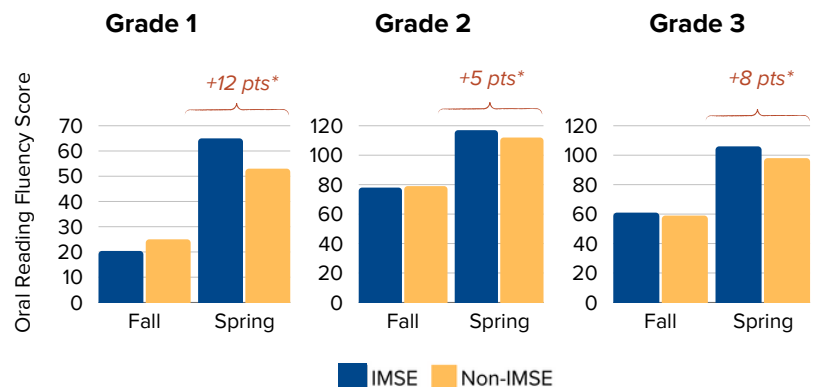
KEY FINDINGS

- Students taught by IMSE OG-trained teachers had **significantly higher spring ORF scores** compared to the control group, controlling for fall baseline scores.
- The **impact was observed across all three grade levels**, demonstrating consistent gains in reading fluency.
- **Grade 1 and Grade 3** students showed the **most significant improvement** in ORF scores.



Students in Grades 1 and 3 with IMSE OG+ trained teachers showed significantly greater ORF score gains.

Oral Reading Fluency Scores from Fall to Spring by Group



*Statistically significant difference in adjusted Spring scores, after controlling for Fall baselines scores.

Grade 1: $F(1, 389) = 31.89, p < .001, \eta^2 = 0.08$

Grade 2: $F(1, 366) = 12.69, p < .001, \eta^2 = 0.03$

Grade 3: $F(1, 175) = 9.20, p = .003, \eta^2 = 0.02$



LXD Research is an independent research firm that evaluates educational programs with ESSA-aligned methods.

[Learn more at www.lxdresearch.com](http://www.lxdresearch.com)



For additional information about **IMSE** visit:

www.IMSE.com