IMSE Orton-Gillingham Approach: K-3 Reading Growth

June 2019

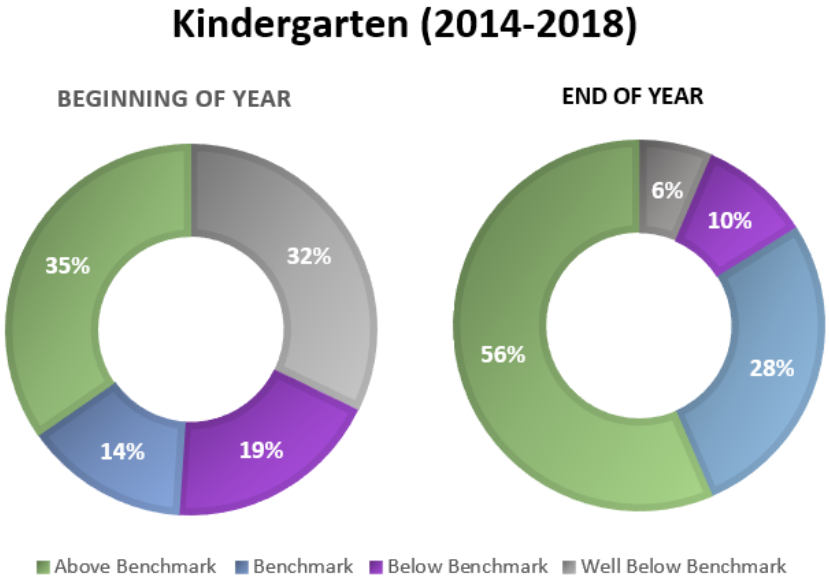
STUDY OVERVIEW

Approximately 8,000 K-3 students were assessed each year over 4 school years (2014-2018). They were tested with the Dibels NEXT reading fluency assessment and were instructed in reading skills using the IMSE Orton-Gillingham Approach. For over 20 years, IMSE has trained classroom teachers to teach reading more effectively using a multi-sensory approach based on the Orton-Gillingham approach.

FINDINGS

On average, across all students and school years, 12.5% of the student population moved from at-risk reading ability to a normal or above-average range. This reduced the total population of at-risk readers from 40% to 28% or by roughly 1000 students per year.

Students who fall behind early in their education tend to fall further and further behind. Because of this, it is critical that they catch up as early as possible. IMSE's method produces powerful results with these early struggling readers. Of kindergarten students tested, 51% began the year in an at-risk category, but by the end of the year, this was reduced to 16%. This meant almost 3000 kindergarten students, over the course of 4 school years, climbed from at-risk reading ability to at, or above, benchmark.



Grade	Students Moved Out of At-Risk Range
K	721
1	123
2	40
3	150
Total	1034

RIVER STRATEGIES

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RETURN ON INVESTMENT

On average, the cost to educate a special education student is $16,500/yr. The cost to educate a general education student is $9,400/yr. So, every time a student moves out of the at-risk category and is educated in the general education environment, the school district saves $7,100 per student. After accounting for $1,600/yr federal funding for special education students, the net local difference is $5,500/yr/student. In this case study, the district had a cost avoidance $5.7M per year (1,034 students moved out of at-risk range x $5,500 per student). The total cost to train 400 teachers in IMSE's Orton-Gillingham was $370,000. So when 68 students moved out of the "at-risk" into normal or above normal reading ability in year 1, the entire investment was justified. In other words, ***the school covered the cost of training the teachers 12 days into the first school year.***

What is not included in this analysis is the cost avoidance for the Federal government of $1,600/special education student, plus the additional benefit to the local school district as these students progress through upper elementary, middle and high school reading on grade level and reading to learn rather than learning to read. And ***most importantly, these children will grow into contributing members of society with a healthy sense of self-worth because they know how to read.***

- Cost per special ed student: $16,500
- Cost per average student: $9,400
- Fed funding per special ed student: $1,600
- Local cost burden per student: $5,500
- Cost to train 400 teachers: $370,000
- Breakeven point: The school district covered the entire cost of the training by elevating 68 students out of special education ($370,000/$5,500 = 67.3 students).

DATA CHART

COLORADO DATA

SCHOOL YEAR: 14-15

Grade	Students		WBB	BB	Bench	AB
K	WBB	769	16%	15%	32%	37%
	BB	384	3%	11%	33%	53%
	Bench	275	1%	7%	32%	60%
	AB	686	0%	2%	17%	81%
	Totals	2114	137.31	190.56	577.42	1208.71
	BOY %		36.4%	18.2%	13.0%	32.5%
	EOY %		6.5%	9.0%	27.3%	57.2%
1	WBB	519	61%	15%	15%	9%
	BB	337	26%	16%	30%	28%
	Bench	386	14%	16%	31%	39%
	AB	889	3%	6%	19%	72%
	Totals	2131	484.92	246.87	467.52	931.69
	BOY %		24.4%	15.8%	18.1%	41.7%
	EOY %		22.8%	11.6%	21.9%	43.7%
2	WBB	489	65%	23%	9%	3%
	BB	213	17%	30%	33%	20%
	Bench	571	5%	18%	35%	42%
	AB	849	0%	1%	14%	85%
	Totals	2122	382.61	287.64	433.01	1018.74
	BOY %		23.0%	10.0%	26.9%	40.0%
	EOY %		18.0%	13.6%	20.4%	48.0%
3	WBB	534	62%	19%	15%	4%
	BB	238	12%	22%	52%	14%
	Bench	477	3%	13%	47%	37%
	AB	796	0%	1%	15%	84%
	Totals	2045	373.95	223.79	547.45	899.81
	BOY %		26.1%	11.6%	23.3%	38.9%
	EOY %		18.3%	10.9%	26.8%	44.0%
All	WBB	2311	47%	18%	19%	16%
	BB	1172	14%	18%	36%	32%
	Bench	1709	6%	14%	37%	43%
	AB	3220	1%	3%	16%	80%
	Totals	8412	1384.99	962.8	2008.54	4055.67
	BOY %		27.5%	13.9%	20.3%	38.3%
	EOY %		16.5%	11.4%	23.9%	48.2%

SCHOOL YEAR: 15-16

Grade	Students		WBB	BB	Bench	AB
K	WBB	629	18%	20%	34%	28%
	BB	406	3%	11%	34%	52%
	Bench	291	1%	6%	31%	62%
	AB	765	0%	3%	18%	79%
	Totals	2091	128.31	210.87	579.81	1172.01
	BOY %		30.1%	19.4%	13.9%	36.6%
	EOY %		6.1%	10.0%	27.4%	55.4%
1	WBB	470	58%	16%	15%	11%
	BB	298	27%	18%	29%	26%
	Bench	326	13%	17%	29%	41%
	AB	920	3%	6%	20%	71%
	Totals	2014	423.04	239.46	435.46	916.04
	BOY %		23.3%	14.8%	16.2%	45.7%
	EOY %		19.9%	11.2%	20.4%	43.0%
2	WBB	519	70%	18%	9%	3%
	BB	197	15%	34%	36%	15%
	Bench	565	2%	16%	38%	44%
	AB	800	0%	1%	13%	86%
	Totals	2081	404.15	258.8	436.33	981.72
	BOY %		24.9%	9.5%	27.2%	38.4%
	EOY %		19.0%	12.2%	20.6%	46.3%
3	WBB	559	62%	20%	15%	3%
	BB	200	15%	31%	42%	12%
	Bench	491	4%	12%	44%	40%
	AB	771	0%	1%	14%	85%
	Totals	2021	396.22	240.43	491.83	892.52
	BOY %		27.7%	9.9%	24.3%	38.1%
	EOY %		19.4%	11.8%	24.1%	43.6%
All	WBB	2177	50%	19%	19%	12%
	BB	1101	14%	21%	34%	31%
	Bench	1673	5%	13%	37%	45%
	AB	3256	1%	3%	16%	80%
	Totals	8207	1358.85	960.01	1927.94	3960.2
	BOY %		26.5%	13.4%	20.4%	39.7%
	EOY %		16.2%	11.4%	22.9%	47.1%

SCHOOL YEAR: 16-17

Grade	Students		WBB	BB	Bench	AB
K	WBB	670	20%	17%	30%	33%
	BB	369	5%	11%	38%	46%
	Bench	324	1%	5%	32%	62%
	AB	732	0%	2%	17%	81%
	Totals	2085	155.59	200.44	581.24	1156.57
	BOY %		32.1%	17.7%	15.1%	35.1%
	EOY %		7.4%	9.5%	27.5%	54.7%
1	WBB	493	61%	15%	14%	10%
	BB	308	23%	21%	31%	25%
	Bench	341	15%	20%	32%	33%
	AB	881	3%	7%	18%	72%
	Totals	2023	449.15	268.5	432.2	873.15
	BOY %		24.4%	15.2%	16.9%	43.5%
	EOY %		21.1%	12.6%	20.3%	41.0%
2	WBB	444	65%	20%	10%	5%
	BB	158	18%	40%	27%	15%
	Bench	514	4%	16%	38%	42%
	AB	805	0%	1%	13%	86%
	Totals	1921	337.6	242.29	387.03	954.08
	BOY %		23.1%	8.2%	26.8%	41.9%
	EOY %		15.9%	11.4%	18.2%	45.0%
3	WBB	561	67%	17%	14%	2%
	BB	192	13%	32%	45%	10%
	Bench	481	4%	12%	51%	33%
	AB	805	0%	1%	16%	83%
	Totals	2039	420.07	222.58	539.05	857.3
	BOY %		27.5%	9.4%	23.6%	39.5%
	EOY %		20.5%	10.9%	26.4%	41.9%
All	WBB	2168	51%	17%	18%	14%
	BB	1027	14%	22%	36%	28%
	Bench	1650	6%	14%	39%	41%
	AB	3223	1%	3%	16%	80%
	Totals	8068	1380.69	922.19	1919.14	3845.98
	BOY %		26.9%	12.7%	20.5%	39.9%
	EOY %		16.4%	11.0%	22.8%	45.7%

SCHOOL YEAR: 17-18

Grade	Students		WBB	BB	Bench	AB
K	WBB	585	16%	17%	33%	34%
	BB	400	3%	13%	33%	51%
	Bench	299	1%	6%	35%	56%
	AB	674	0%	3%	15%	82%
	Totals	1958	108.59	195.59	530.8	1123.02
	BOY %		29.9%	20.4%	15.3%	34.4%
	EOY %		5.1%	9.3%	25.1%	53.1%
1	WBB	510	54%	14%	20%	12%
	BB	303	25%	19%	32%	24%
	Bench	351	11%	16%	30%	43%
	AB	831	2%	5%	16%	77%
	Totals	1995	406.38	226.68	437.22	924.72
	BOY %		25.6%	15.2%	17.6%	41.7%
	EOY %		19.1%	10.6%	20.5%	43.4%
2	WBB	506	68%	19%	10%	3%
	BB	180	16%	29%	32%	23%
	Bench	536	2%	16%	37%	45%
	AB	749	0%	2%	15%	83%
	Totals	1971	383.6	249.08	418.87	919.45
	BOY %		25.7%	9.1%	27.2%	38.0%
	EOY %		18.1%	11.7%	19.7%	43.3%
3	WBB	471	61%	18%	18%	3%
	BB	220	7%	23%	56%	14%
	Bench	444	2%	10%	49%	39%
	AB	726	0%	1%	9%	90%
	Totals	1861	311.59	187.04	490.88	871.49
	BOY %		25.3%	11.8%	23.9%	39.0%
	EOY %		15.2%	9.1%	24.0%	42.6%
All	WBB	2072	48%	17%	21%	14%
	BB	1103	12%	19%	37%	32%
	Bench	1630	4%	13%	38%	45%
	AB	2980	1%	3%	14%	82%
	Totals	7785	1221.92	863.11	1879.83	3820.14
	BOY %		26.6%	14.2%	20.9%	38.3%
	EOY %		14.5%	10.3%	22.3%	45.4%

WBB: well below benchmark
BB: below benchmark
B: benchmark
AB: above benchmark