

Executive Summary

Ignite! Reading was founded to tackle our nation's early reading failures. **Today, only 35% of fourth graders read at grade level** - primarily because most schools use an early literacy curriculum that fails to teach students the foundational reading skills the science of reading says they need to be an independent reader by the start of second grade.

The Solution.

To solve this problem, Ignite! Reading has developed a Zoom-based tutoring program that focuses on foundational reading skills instruction. Each student receives 30 minutes per day of 1:1 tutoring from a remote tutor using a curriculum based on the science of reading that is designed to enable differentiated instruction. 15 minutes are spent on foundational reading skills targeted to where a student falls on the continuum of learning to read and 15 minutes are spent reading together to build oral language, vocabulary, and comprehension.

The Ignite! Reading program is unique in its focus on high-fidelity implementation of a foundational reading skills curriculum. Tutors are recruited with the expectation that their primary job is to deliver the curriculum with fidelity and the Zoom-based tutoring format allows every tutor to be continually assessed and mentored on the fidelity with which they implement the curriculum.

The Results.

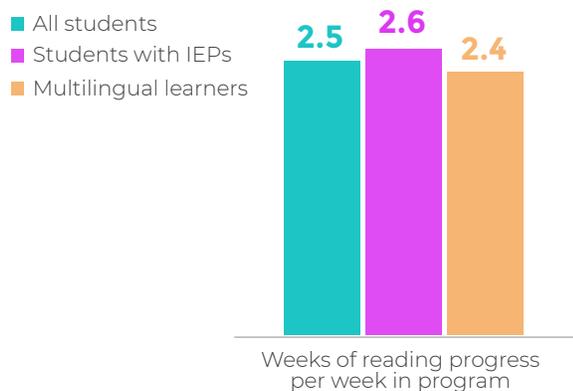
To test its program, Ignite! Reading conducted a nine-week pilot in Oakland, CA over the summer of 2021 with 100 students and 30 tutors with the following results:

- 1 The program was oversubscribed by families. 300 families applied for 100 spots which were allocated on a first come first served basis.
- 2 Overall, students made 2.5 weeks of reading progress for every week they were in the program.



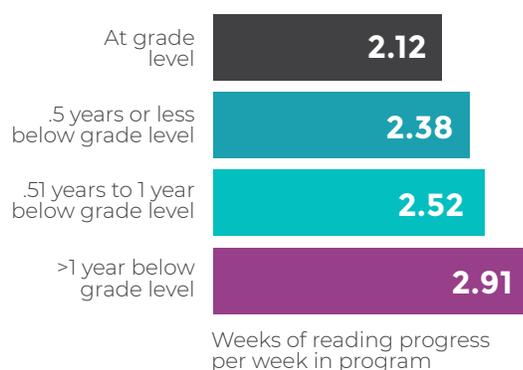
- 3 Only 2% of students (both of whom were multilingual learners), made less than one week of progress per week in the program, while 37% of students made more than 3 weeks of progress per week and 7% made more than 4 weeks of progress per week.

4 Students with IEPs made 19.2 weeks of progress in 7.4 weeks in the program and multilingual learners made 16.5 weeks of progress in 6.8 weeks in the program.



5 Students in a summer school classroom setting performed at the same level as students working from home.

6 82% of rising 1st-3rd graders were below grade level at the start of the program. The further below grade level students were, the more progress they made per week.



7 **The Ignite! Reading summer program completely offset the traditional Summer Slide** (8 weeks of reading loss) and a significant portion of the estimated 10 weeks of reading loss caused by Covid-19 remote schooling precautions.

8 Parents and tutors loved the Ignite! Reading program. The Ignite! Reading Net Promoter Score (the likelihood they would recommend the program to another parent or tutor) was 100 for parents and 92 for tutors. Student and tutor attendance rates were 92%.

9 **60% of tutors**, including high school and college students, school-based personnel and parents, had no instructional background prior to participating in the Ignite! Reading program. These tutors outperformed tutors who were classroom teachers, **delivering 2.6 weeks of reading progress per week in the program vs. 2.3 weeks of progress per week in the program for classroom teachers.**

10 The Zoom-based remote tutoring format was effective. Students were highly engaged, followed directions and consistently stayed on task. Tutors were able to build effective relationships with their students and the recording capabilities of the Zoom platform significantly accelerated the professional development process for tutors.

11 Ignite! Reading's professional development program, which included 22 hours of upfront training on the Ignite! curriculum and 45 hours of one-hour-per-day group professional learning and differentiated coaching, enabled 100% of tutors to deliver the Ignite! Reading curriculum with high fidelity. While only one tutor was scored as proficient in the curriculum prior to the start of training, **all tutors were evaluated as proficient by week 3 of the program.**

Next Steps: In-School Pilots.

Based on the success of the Oakland summer pilot, Ignite! Reading intends to pilot an in-school version of its Zoom-based tutoring program during the 2021-22 school year. The program will tutor students for 15 minutes per day on foundational reading skills during the independent reading portion of a typical school's literacy block. **The goals of this pilot are to validate that the Ignite! Reading remote tutoring program can be delivered effectively during the school day**, to identify how Ignite's operational model should be adapted for an in-school implementation, and to explore strategies that will enable more flexibility in tutor recruitment, training, and staffing.

About Ignite! Reading

Ignite! Reading's mission is to ensure that every student is an independent reader at the start of second grade. The organization was founded by Jessica Reid Sliwerski, CEO of Open Up Resources and Evan Marwell, CEO of EducationSuperHighway with the support of NiKki Bridges, CEO of Lit and her incredible team of literacy coaches.

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