

Fall 2021 In-School Pilot Mid-Program Summary



Pilot Overview.

On October 4, 2021 **Ignite! Reading** launched an in-school version of its Zoom-powered reading fundamentals tutoring program in partnership with KIPP: Bridge Academy in West Oakland. The program is serving 69 predominantly Black and Latinx first and third grade students in daily, 15-minute, 1:1 sessions during the school's afternoon personalized learning block. Tutoring takes place in a separate room where up to 15 students are tutored at a time by remote tutors.

The primary goal of the pilot is to validate that the Ignite! Reading pedagogy delivers meaningful progress in learning to read with 15-minute tutoring sessions during the school day. In addition, the pilot is designed 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, development, and staffing.

Progress Monitoring Results.

Students were progress monitored after completing the equivalent of three weeks of daily, 15-minute tutoring sessions. 62 students have been assessed to date. Due to attendance issues, six first grade students have yet to complete sufficient sessions to be assessed while one first grade student with an IEP has been identified as requiring six weeks of tutoring sessions before being ready to be assessed. All third grade students were assessed.

89% of assessed students passed their progress monitoring. These students made three weeks of reading progress for every week of tutoring they received.

- > **98% of 3rd grade students and 73% of 1st grade students** passed their first progress monitoring assessment and moved to the next level in learning to read.
- > **100% of IEP students** passed their first progress monitoring assessment.
- > **85% of English Learner students** passed their first progress monitoring assessment.
- > **93% of Latinx and 89% of Black students** passed their first progress monitoring assessment.
- > **Students tutored by non-teachers and students with more than one tutor** passed their first progress monitoring assessment at the same rate as students overall.

“Ignite is helping put us on track to achieve our annual goal of 100% of students behind grade level in reading growing 1.5 years by June 2022.”



Michael Burks, KIPP School Leader.

Social Emotional Learning Impact.

In addition to validating that the Ignite! Reading pedagogy is delivering accelerated progress in learning to read, the KIPP pilot has demonstrated a significant positive impact on students' social emotional learning. The principal and teachers have shared that students often walk into tutoring frustrated and angry by things happening in their home rooms, but are smiling and talking about how much they love school and reading by the time they finish their Ignite! session.

The principal attributes this to the reality that this is the only time in the school day where students are receiving 1:1 instruction that is in their zone of proximal development from a nurturing adult, something that classroom teachers wish they could do, but for a variety of reasons are unable to do.

Key Learnings:

The KIPP pilot has helped Ignite! adapt its model for delivery during the school day. Key learnings include:

- > **15 minutes of daily instruction** is as effective as the 30 minutes used during Ignite's summer pilot.

- > Working with **multiple tutors has not negatively impacted student progress or engagement**. These students are seeing the same achievement and social emotional learning impacts as those with a single tutor.
- > A full week of **dress rehearsals** before launch is critical to ensure students (and teachers) learn the routine for transitioning to Ignite! Reading tutoring sessions.
- > **Stereo-quality headphones and newer devices** make a difference in students' ability to hear their tutors.
- > **Student attendance is a significant issue**. Overall attendance was 82% (vs. 92% during the summer pilot) and over half of students have missed more than one day a week of school since launching the fall pilot. This meaningfully impacted the time it took for students to complete the required 15 tutoring sessions before being assessed.
- > **Transitions are also challenging**. 25% of tutoring sessions started late and lasted less than 15 minutes. Interestingly, this does not seem to have impacted student progress.
- > The lack of a **Covid-19 school closure plan** meant that not all students were able to continue their tutoring from home during an unexpected school closure. Many students forgot to bring their devices and headphones home and not all parents knew when their student was supposed to log on for their tutoring session.



Winter/Spring Partnership Planning

Ignite! Is planning to continue its KIPP pilot through the end of the school year. In addition, we have signed a **\$1,000 per student contract for 30 students with Coney Island Prep in New York City.**

We are also in discussion with several public school districts with the objective of adding 1-2 additional school pilots starting in January.

ignite-reading.org

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About Ignite! Reading

Ignite! Reading's mission is to ensure that every student is an independent reader by 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 literacy expertise of Charlotte Marks from Lit.

Ignite!'s program is based on the foundational reading skills curriculum *How to Plan Differentiated Reading Instruction*, by Sharon Walpole and Michael C. McKenna.

