

MindPlay



From Reading Gaps to Growth Leveraging MindPlay Reading Coach for Enhanced Performance on Texas STAAR Assessments

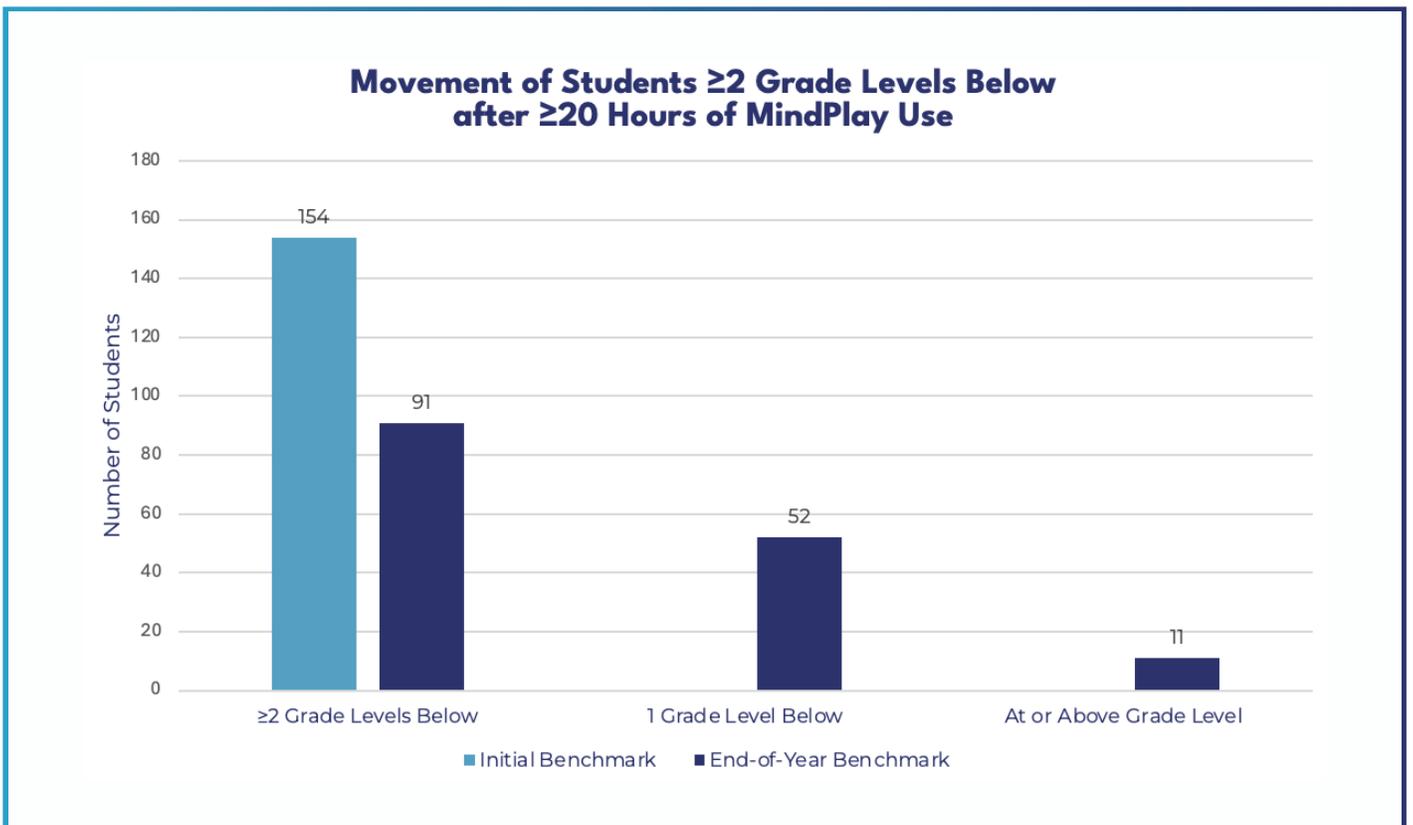
A Research Brief by Dr. Meredyth Kealey, Stephen Kanzleamar,
and Michelle Brandon | District-wide Reading Growth

Overview

During the 2021-2022 academic year, a small public school in eastern Texas implemented MindPlay Reading Coach to provide supplemental reading intervention to students in grades 3-8. The district aimed to enhance academic performance in response to the directives of their new board of managers, focused on driving district improvement.

Last school year (2022-23), MindPlay Education analyzed scaled score growth on the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) Reading Assessment. The statistical analysis included 443 students in grades 3-8 whose reading level was two or more grade levels below their enrolled grade. Student data indicating reading difficulties was identified using MindPlay's Initial Benchmark Screener. The student demographics in Shepherd ISD consist of 4% Black or African American, 43% Hispanic/Latino, 5% Two or More Races, and 47% White. Of these students, 60% are eligible for free meals under the National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program and 20% under other economic disadvantages.

On average, 80% of students who used MindPlay for at least 20 hours closed their reading gap by 1.6 years, and nearly 25% moved out of the critical range.



Results

MindPlay Reading Coach usage among students reading at least two grades below their enrolled grade level positively correlated with scaled score growth on the STAAR Reading Assessment. Students who used MindPlay Reading Coach at or above recommended fidelity levels (20 or more hours in an academic school year) demonstrated significant reading improvement (see Figure 2 below).

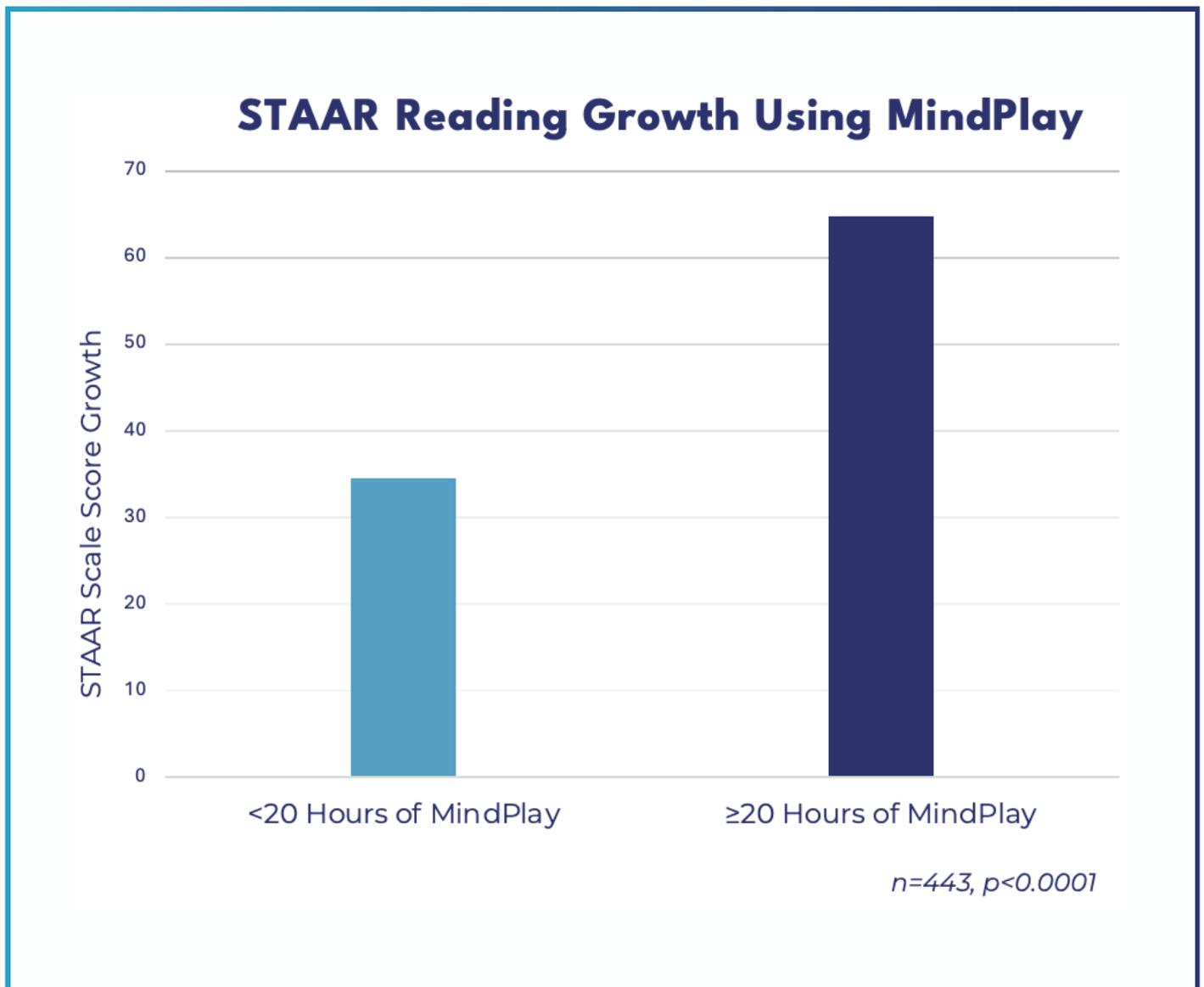


Figure two shows students who used MindPlay for twenty or more hours made nearly two times the growth of students who used the program for less than twenty hours.