

# PHONICS CORE PROGRAM

95 PERCENT GROUP - EFFICACY RESEARCH  
2-YEAR RESULTS - K-2 (21-22) & K-3 (22-23)



## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The 95 Phonics Core Program (95 PCP) adds explicit, systematic phonics to the daily reading block to ensure that all K-5 students receive consistent evidence and research-based phonics instruction. Students in grades 2-3 experienced COVID-19 during foundational years of learning literacy, thus setting them behind. 95 PCP supports the development of phonemic awareness and orthographic mapping that can help 2nd and 3rd graders improve their reading fluency and reading comprehension.

## SCHOOL DESCRIPTION

LOCATION: Missouri

GRADES: K-3

SIZE: 3,257 Students

DEMOGRAPHICS: 74% White | 23% Low Income | 7% EL | 14% SPED

Sixteen schools in the district were paired by Spring 2021 ELA scores and then randomly assigned to treatment and control groups. This paper presents the two-year experience of the treatment group schools from the original study.

## READING TOOLKIT

### PHONICS CURRICULUM

#### TIER 1 CURRICULUM

##### 95 Phonics Core Program

Previous core: ReadyGEN

#### SUPPLEMENTAL CURRICULUM

- **95 Multisyllable Routine Cards (Grades 2-3)**
- Reading A-Z
- Heggerty Bridge the Gap
- Phonics First and other materials

### ASSESSMENT

#### ACADIENCE READING

Acadience Reading K-6 was conducted at the beginning and end of school in 2021-2022 (Year 1) and 2022-2023 (Year 2).

## REPORT SECTIONS

This report examines growth in multiple ways:

- District-wide % At/Above Benchmark
- 95 PCP for two years, increase of EOY scores
- First year with 95 PCP, first year of gains, compared to their "business as usual" year.

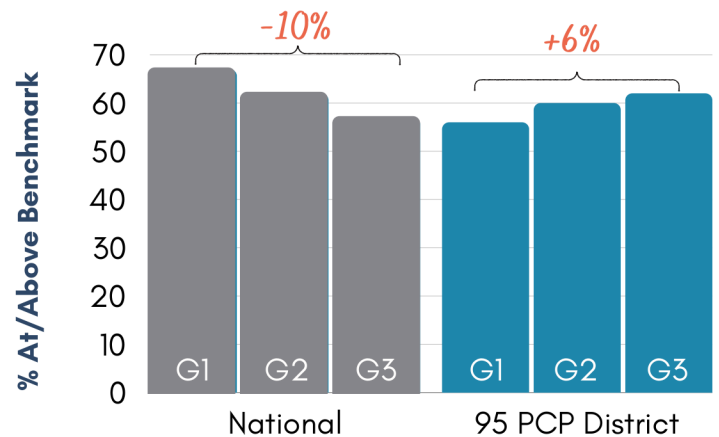
Analysis use for composite scores included covariates to account for beginning-of-year scores.

Contact [research@lxdresearch.com](mailto:research@lxdresearch.com) for more information.

## KEY FINDINGS - ALL STUDENTS

Changing to the 95 Phonics Core Program (PCP) made a positive impact on the district's overall reading profile in Grades 1-3. The percent of students At/Above Benchmark in each subsequent grade increased, while the national trend declined. The reversed trajectory indicates that students could catch up and keep up with 95 PCP.

### 2023 End-of-Year Trends Across Grades



See page 2 for evidence of:

- Consistent EOY scores for 95 PCP
- Improved 2023 scores those new to 95 PCP



For more information about the PA Lessons, this study or other products, contact [info@95percentgroup.com](mailto:info@95percentgroup.com)



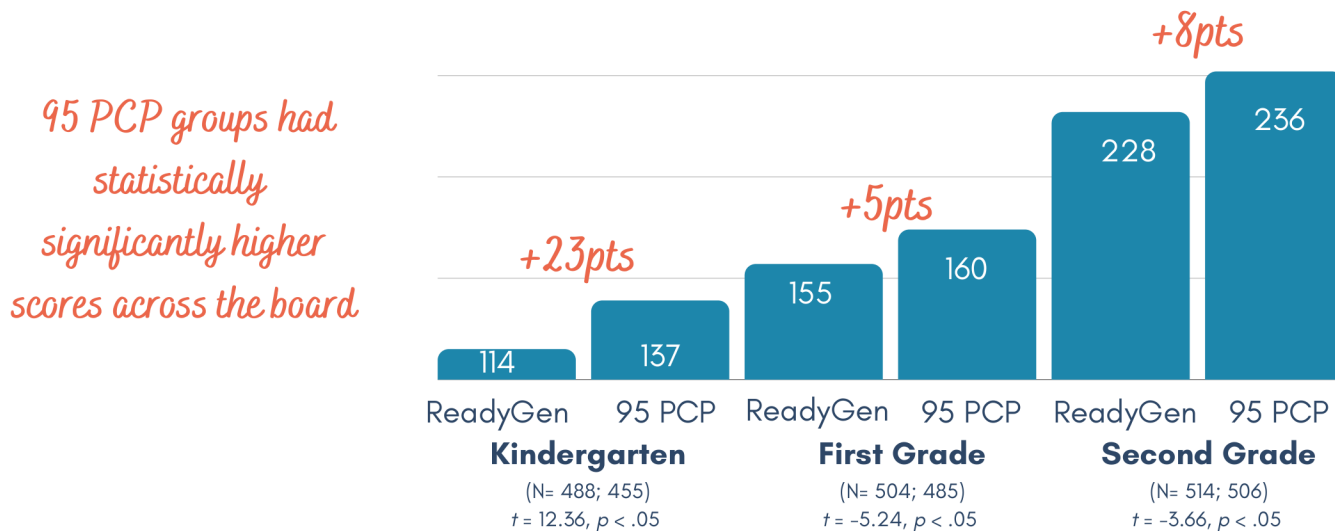
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## 2-YEAR RESULTS - K-2 (21-22) & K-3 (22-23)

### KEY FINDINGS - READYGEN YEAR VS. 95 PCP YEAR

Half of the district's schools started using 95 PCP in 2022-2023, so end-of-year scores for students who used Ready Gen during the study (2021-2022) can be compared to the first year using 95 PCP. **Student growth soared in all three grades** when students of teachers using ReadyGen were compared to the next cohort of students with the same teachers using 95 PCP one year later. When teachers used 95 PCP, students had statistically significantly higher end-of-year scores than when teachers used ReadyGen, even after controlling for BOY scores.

Two Years of Scores, End-of-Year Composite Scores



### KEY FINDINGS - 2 YEARS USING 95 PCP

The other half of the study schools used 95 PCP in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. The growth made in the first year was replicated by teachers with a new group of students. In fact, first graders with experienced 95 PCP teachers had significantly higher scores than first graders during the study year. Kindergarten and Second Graders ended each school year with similar scores, **demonstrating consistency in teacher impact during the second year of program implementation.** The consistency and gains in scores could be related to students familiarity with the routines and having teachers starting the year more comfortable with the program (as indicated by responses from a teacher survey and district interview).

Grade	2021-2022 vs. 2022-2023	
Kindergarten	✓	Similar end of year scores
First Grade	↑	Higher scores in Year 2 (+3 points)
Second Grade	✓	Similar end of year scores

1st grade:  $t = 2.28, p < .05$