

Fundations® Studies of Program Effectiveness



Introduction

Wilson Foundations[®], for students in pre-K to Grade 3 classrooms, incorporates the science of reading and writing to address critical foundational skills, spelling, and handwriting program in a multimodal, Structured Literacy approach for all students.

Additionally, it significantly reinforces other English Language Arts standards, particularly vocabulary, comprehension, and writing goals, in an explicit, systematic, sequential, cumulative, and integrated approach.

The program focuses on student development, differentiation of instruction, and active engagement so students master the foundational skills necessary to become successful readers and writers.

The power of this foundational skills program is in the manner in which it overlaps skills being developed, not treating them in isolation, so that a daily 30–35 minute lesson teaches and then reinforces many corresponding skills, making it an efficient and effective program

Fundations is integral to a Response to Intervention (RTI) model, providing scientifically based instruction in Tier 1 as well as an early intervention program for students at risk. RTI is a prevention based model that acknowledges the diversity of reasons for why a child might struggle to learn, with a specific learning disability being only one of several possible causes. To aid in the implementation of an RTI model, progress monitoring is built into Fundations. Thus, students requiring a more intensive program can be identified before enduring years of struggle.

The use of an RTI model allows educators to identify and intervene early to prevent students from developing more invasive reading deficits, and helps to more accurately identify those students who struggle to learn as a result of a specific learning disability (Fletcher & Vaughn, 2009)¹. The overall goal of an RTI model is to prevent the domino effect of children developing weaknesses in foundational skills that, over time, give rise to deficits in higher level reading skills, such as the comprehension of complex text.

Summary of Key Findings

Fundations is built on a clear and thoroughly documented research basis. Since the publication of Fundations, several impact and efficacy studies of thousands of kindergarten and first-grade students have been performed in schools across the United States.

The consensus across these studies is that, when implemented properly, students using Fundations in Tiers 1 and 2 achieve **greater gains in foundational literacy skills** compared to students using programs previously implemented by the schools. These results held with English learners (ELs) as well.

¹ Fletcher, J.M., & Vaughn, S. (2009). Response to intervention: Preventing and remediating academic difficulties. *Child Development Perspectives*, 3(1), 30–37.

Studies of **kindergarten students** who received Foundations instruction in **Florida, New York, and Massachusetts** demonstrated:

- better learning of letter knowledge
- larger gains in phonological and phonemic awareness
- greater gains in phonological decoding
- reduction in risk of later reading difficulties

First-grade students who received Foundations instruction demonstrated:

- larger gains in oral reading fluency
- larger gains in nonsense word fluency: whole words and correct letter sounds
- improvement in phonemic awareness (phoneme segmentation)
- improvement in phonological decoding (reading nonsense words)
- significant gains in basic reading skills
- reduction in risk of later reading difficulties

English learners (Grade 1) who received Foundations® instruction demonstrated:

- greater gains in phonemic awareness
- greater gains in oral reading fluency

ESSA Evidence

An independent analysis of data from a Florida district determined that Foundations implementation in the general classroom (Tier 1) is associated with better performance on four of six tested DIBELS scores in first grade and the DIBELS Letter Naming Fluency (LNF) subtest in kindergarten. LNF is a critically important and telling factor of the potential for developing literacy in younger students. Alphabetic knowledge, as measured in this subtest, is a strong predictor of how easily a child will learn to read. The study included multiple regression analyses with statistical controls for demographic and behavioral factors and is sufficient for a rating of “Promising Evidence” / Tier 3 on the U.S. Department of Education’s Every Students Success Act (ESSA) evidence scale.

In addition, a retrospective study (2022) was undertaken to explore the effects of Foundations® on student literacy gains in the Wayne Highlands (PA) School District (WHSD). The principal analyses included multiple regression models with statistical controls for demographic factors such as ethnicity and eligibility for free/reduced price meals. The models showed that Foundations implementation is associated with better performance on DIBELS Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF) and Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) for first grade students. The study was sufficient for a rating of “Promising Evidence” (Tier 3) on the U.S. Department of Education’s Every Students Success Act (ESSA) evidence scale.

Summarized below are studies demonstrating the statistically significant and educationally meaningful impact of Foundations on students across the country.

Retrospective Impact Study in Wayne Highlands School District Implementation at Tier 1 Wayne County, PA ²

A retrospective study (2022) was undertaken to explore the effects of the Foundations[®] program on student literacy gains in the Wayne Highlands (PA) School District (WHSD).

WHSD is a rural public school district located in Northeastern Pennsylvania serving more than 500 students in kindergarten through Grade 2. Starting in the 2016–2017 school year, Foundations[®] was implemented in Grades K through 2 in elementary schools.

To meet the guidelines of an ESSA Tier 3 study, a control comparison group who did not receive Foundations was created for all elementary students in the district from 2012–2013 through 2015–2016. Data from this treatment group was compared to the control comparison group's data from the 2016–2017 through the 2018–2019 school year. Due to compromised data, only the Grade 1 results were evaluated.

The principal analyses included multiple regression models with statistical controls for demographic factors, such as ethnicity and eligibility for free/reduced price meals.

The analysis showed that Foundations[®] implementation in first grade is associated with statistically significant gains in the following DIBELS subtests in Grade 1:

- Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF): Whole Words Read (WWR)
- Nonsense Word Fluency: Correct Letter Sounds (CLS)
- Oral Reading Fluency (ORF)

The treatment effect is large enough to be considered substantively important.

The study was sufficient for a rating of **“Promising Evidence” (Tier 3)** on the U.S. Department of Education's **Every Student Success Act (ESSA)** evidence scale.

Grade 1 Outcomes

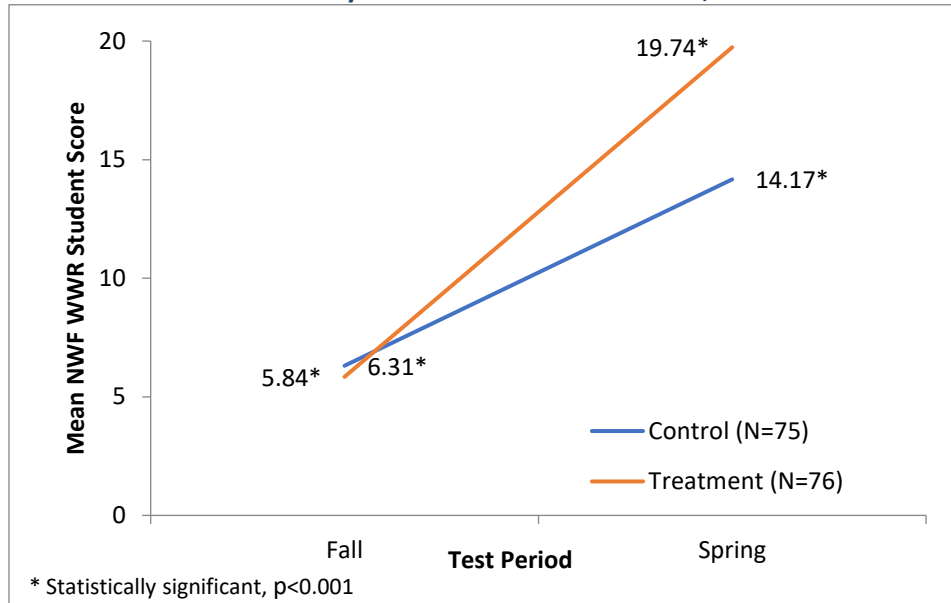
Grade 1 Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 analyses indicated that Foundations treatment had positive impact on student outcomes.

- Cohort 1 data indicated substantively important effect size for Nonsense Word Fluency Whole Words Read (NWF WWR), but the data quality impacted statistical significance.
- Cohort 2 analyses between the control comparison and the Foundations treatment group's mean scores showed a statistically significant difference for DIBELS NWF WWR between fall and spring (see Figure 1).

² Analysis performed by Metis Associates, 2020.

- Cohort 2 analyses showed Foundations instruction as a statistically significant predictor with gains in Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) Accuracy, Nonsense Word Fluency Whole Words Read (NWF WWR), and Nonsense Word Fluency Correct Letter Sounds (NWF CLS) (see Table 1).

Figure 1. DIBELS Nonsense Word Fluency Whole Words Read Grade 1, Cohort 2



*Note. Control comparison group and Foundations treatment group mean scores Grade 1, fall to spring. NWF WWR = Nonsense Word Fluency Whole Words Read. * p<0.001.

Table 1. Multiple Regression Results for Grade 1 – Cohort 2 (Control Comparison vs. Foundations Treatment)

Predicted	Predictor (Direction)	r2 change	Beta	t	Sig.	Hedges' g
ORF Accuracy* r2=0.477 N=149	ORFACC Pre ↑	0.409	0.456	6.611	<0.001	0.290
	Economically Disadvantaged ↓	0.029	-4.142	-2.105	0.037	
	Title I Status ↓	0.020	-7.973	-2.801	0.006	
	Treatment ↑	0.019	4.554	2.304	0.023	
	Constant		51.801			
NWF WWR* r2=0.628 N=150	NWF WWR Pre ↑	0.533	1.111	12.089	<0.001	0.502
	Treatment ↑	0.053	6.733	4.888	<0.001	
	Title I Status ↓	0.041	-7.080	-3.999	<0.001	
	Constant		8.378			
NWF CLS* r2=0.664 N=150	NWF CLS Pre ↑	0.633	1.105	13.339	<0.001	0.231
	Title I Status ↓	0.018	-13.323	-3.070	0.003	
	Treatment ↑	0.013	7.779	2.373	0.019	
	Constant		26.634			

*Note. ¹ORF Accuracy = Oral Reading Fluency Accuracy; NWF WWR = Nonsense Word Fluency Whole Words Read; NWF CLS = Nonsense Word Fluency Correct Letter Sounds.

²p<0.001

Impact Study in School District of Indian River County Implementation at Tier 1 Indian River County, FL ³

The School District of Indian River County, Florida, partnered with Wilson Language Training® (WLT) to implement Foundations® with fidelity and sustainability in 11 elementary schools. Foundations was implemented in these locations as the foundational skills component of the total literacy plan.

To gauge the effect of Foundations on student outcomes, an impact study was initiated that contrasted the gains in literacy skills made by kindergarten and first grade students using Foundations to the gains made by kindergarten and first grade students prior to the implementation of Foundations. Figure 1 exhibits the various treatment and comparison groups among cohorts.

Figure 1. Foundations Treatment Comparison Groups for Indian River County

	COHORT 1 (3 schools)			COHORT 2 (5 schools)			COHORT 3 (3 schools)		
	K	I	2	K	I	2	K	I	2
2010-2011	Pink			Grey			Grey		
2011-2012	Green		Blue	Pink		Grey	Grey		
2012-2013	Blue			Green		Blue	Pink		Grey
2013-2014	Blue			Blue			Green		Blue

Pink represents comparison group, green represents treatment group, blue represents Foundations® implementation

On average, kindergarten and first grade students made greater gains in literacy skills when Foundations was being used as the foundational skills program. The study included multiple regression analyses with statistical controls for demographic and behavioral factors and is sufficient for a rating of **“Promising Evidence”/Tier 3** on the U.S. Department of Education’s Every Students Success Act (ESSA) evidence scale.

Addressing the Needs of First Grade Students

An independent analysis of data from 2010–2014 determined that the implementation of Foundations is associated with better performance on four of six tested DIBELS scores in first grade and DIBELS Letter Naming Fluency (LNF) subtest in kindergarten. LNF is a critically important and telling factor of the potential for developing literacy in younger students.

³ Analysis performed by Metis Associates, 2020.

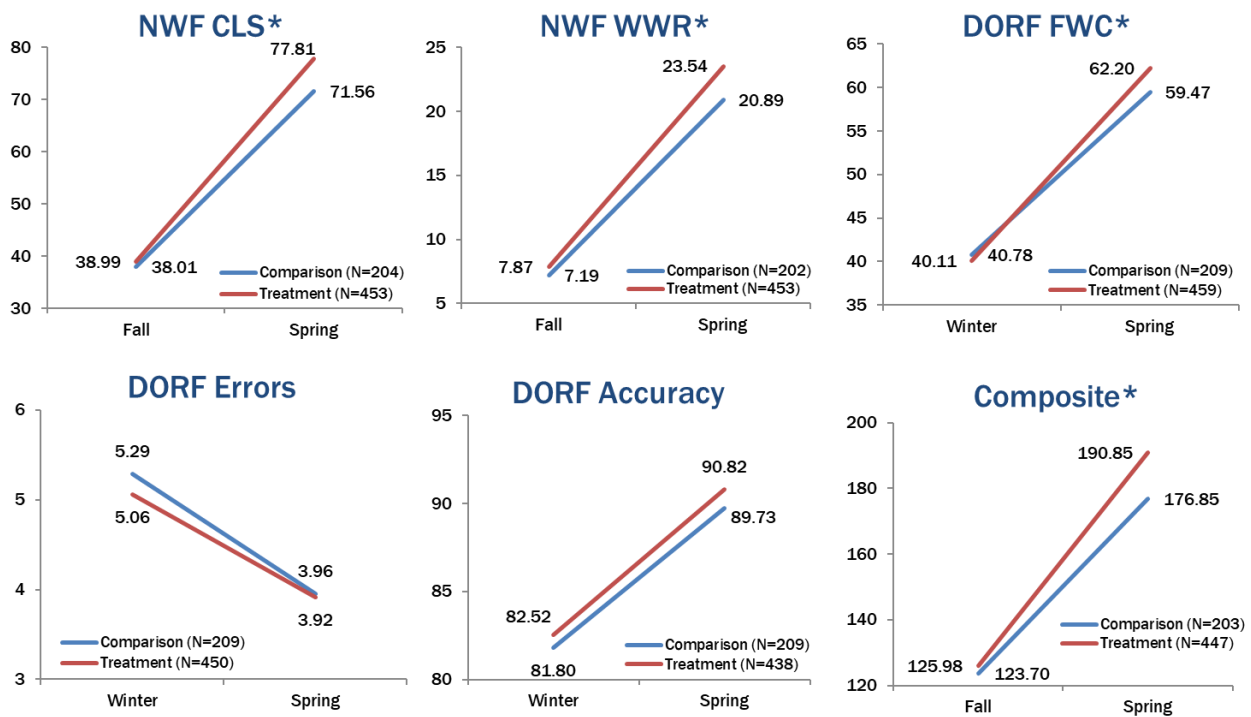
Alphabetic Knowledge, as measured in this subtest, is a strong predictor of how easily a child will learn to read.

The analyses compared treatment and comparison performance on DIBELS at two points in time based on administration during the school year (i.e., fall to spring, winter to spring, or fall to winter). For first grade, comparative analyses were conducted for several DIBELS scales including:

- Nonsense Word Fluency Correct Letter Sounds (NWF CLS) – fall to spring
- Nonsense Word Fluency Whole Words Read (NWF WWR) – fall to spring
- Oral Reading Fluency Words Correct (DORF FWC) – winter to spring
- Oral Reading Fluency Errors (DORF Errors) – winter to spring
- Oral Reading Fluency Accuracy (DORF Accuracy) – winter to spring
- Composite Score (Composite) – fall to spring

Figure 2 shows the growth in the various DIBELS subtests for Grade 1.

Figure 2. Results of Mixed Model ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) Comparisons for Grade 1



*Note. Statistically significant: NWF CLS $p=0.023$, NWF WWR $p=0.039$, DORF FWC $p=0.006$, Composite $p=0.033$

The results in Figure 2 show that the difference in growth between first grade treatment and comparison students was statistically significant on four of the six tests. Students receiving 1st grade Foundations[®] achieved higher rates of growth on the DIBELS NWF CLS, NWF WWR, and DORF FWC subscales, as well as the overall DIBELS Composite score.

Addressing the Needs of Kindergarten Students

Student outcome data from a total of 3,115 kindergarten students were included in this impact study. Of these students, 1,584 attended kindergarten prior to the implementation of Foundations and received a different program for foundational literacy skills (i.e., instruction as usual). The remaining 1,700 kindergarten students attended the 11 schools after the adoption of Foundations and received foundational literacy skills instruction using Foundations.

For kindergarten, comparative analyses were conducted for six DIBELS scales including:

- First Sound Fluency (FSF) – fall to winter
- Letter Naming Fluency (LNF) – fall to spring
- Phoneme Segmentation Fluency (PSF) – winter to spring
- Nonsense Word Fluency Correct Letter Sounds (NWF CLS) – fall to winter
- Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF) – winter to spring
- Composite Score (Composite) – fall to spring

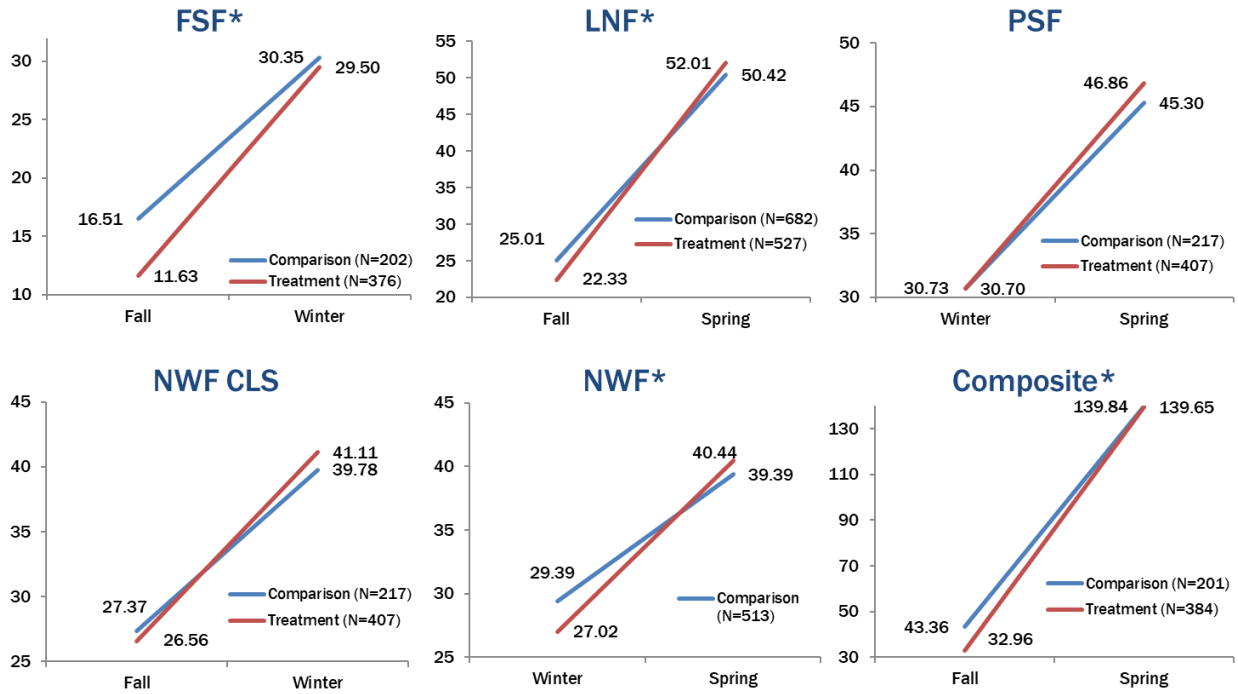
The results of the kindergarten comparisons showed that the difference in growth between treatment and comparison students was statistically significant on four of the six tests. Students receiving Foundations Level K (kindergarten) achieved higher rates of growth on the DIBELS FSF, LNF, and NWF subscales in addition to the overall DIBELS Composite score.

Although the ANOVA results essentially confirm the results of the comparisons, the regression analyses provide a stronger suggestion of the effects of Foundations on student achievement. While controlling for effects of possible demographic and behavioral (i.e., attendance) confounds, the regression analyses establish that Foundations implementation is associated with better performance on one of six tested DIBELS scores in kindergarten: LNF.

As indicated above, LNF is a critically important and telling factor of the potential for developing literacy in younger students. Alphabetic Knowledge, as measured in this subtest, is a strong predictor of how easily a child will learn to read.

Figure 3 shows the growth in the various DIBELS subtests for kindergarten.

Figure 3. Results of Mixed Model ANOVA Comparisons for Kindergarten



*Note. Statistically significant: FSF $p < 0.001$, LNF $p < 0.001$, NWF $p = 0.007$, Composite $p = 0.002$

Urban Elementary School: Response to Intervention Framework Initiative

Study of Implementation at Tiers 1 & 2 NYC Department of Education

Brooklyn, NY

Working closely with the NYC Department of Education, Office of Special Education Initiatives, an RTI framework was established at an urban elementary school as a city-wide pilot initiative to improve student outcomes, reduce unnecessary referrals to special education, and to improve data-based decision making to inform instruction.

Fundations[®] was implemented as the evidence-based program in Tiers 1 and 2. All students in Grades K–3 received daily instruction in Fundations in the Tier 1 general education classroom. Students identified for Tier 2 instruction received Fundations intervention instruction (at least three sessions weekly in small groups of three to six students).

To ensure successful implementation, all teachers were provided Fundations training that included workshops and coaching by Wilson[®] Trainers. During the initial year of implementation, the school performed an efficacy study to characterize the gains made by kindergarten and first grade students who received Fundations.

Outcomes

Figures 1 to 5 present kindergarten and first grade student performance data on the DIBELS Phoneme Segmentation Fluency (PSF) and Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF) measures obtained during Year 1 of Fundations’ implementation. From the middle to the end of the year, students who were at risk for future reading deficits made substantial gains; the majority of these students were no longer classified as at risk by the end of the year.

Figure 1. Kindergarten PSF

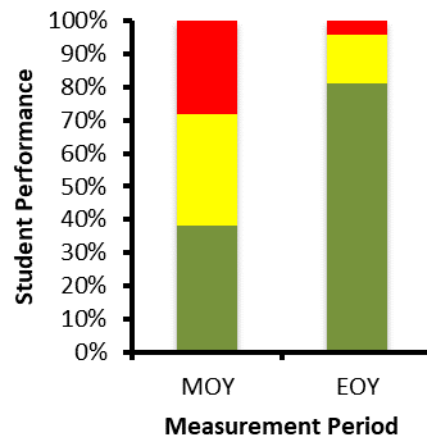


Figure 2. Kindergarten NWF

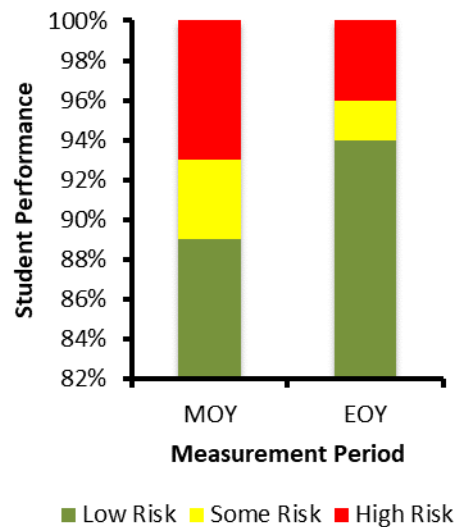


Figure 3. First Grade PSF

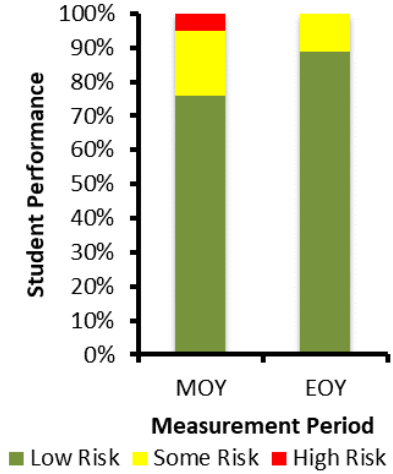


Figure 4. First Grade NWF

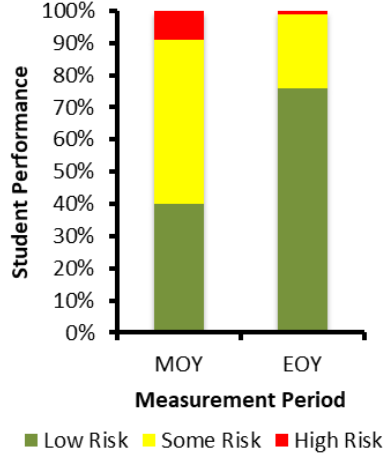
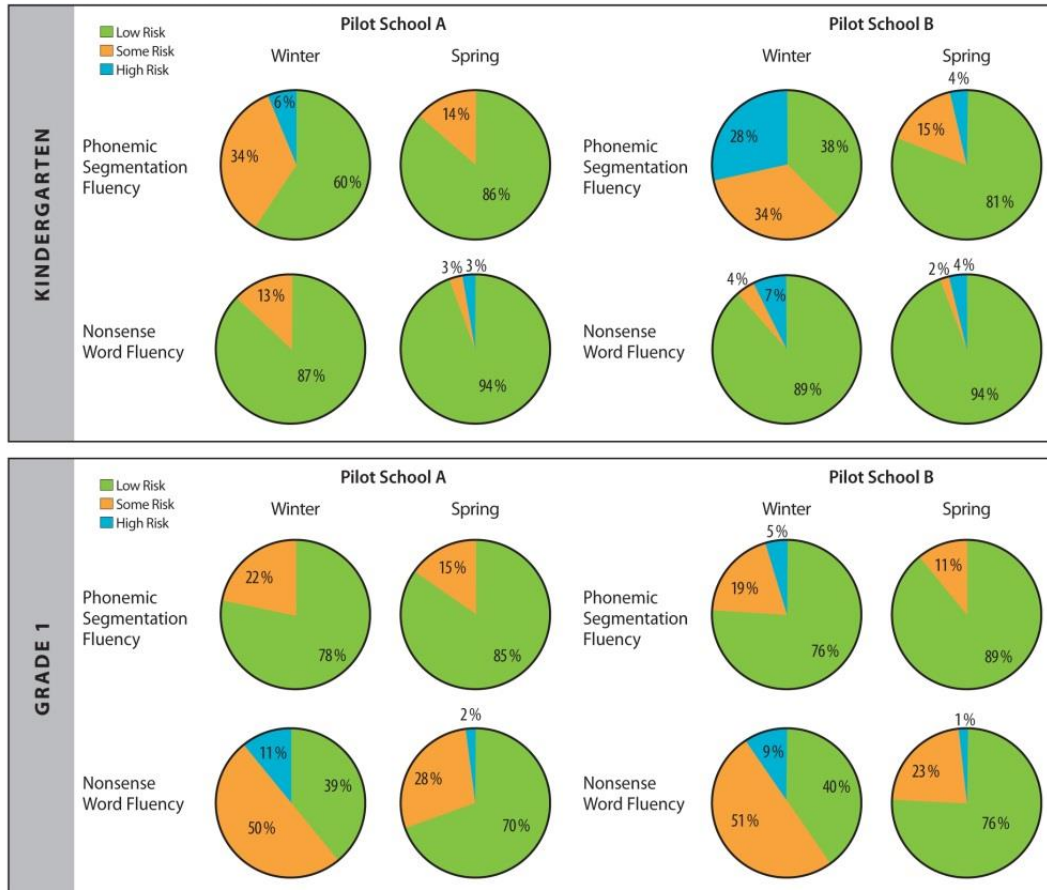


Figure 5. Student Gains in DIBELS Measures by School and Grade



Additionally, the gains achieved by the students during the initial year of implementation were sustained. As evidenced in Table 1, after three years of implementation, there was improvement in student performance in Grade 3 based on the 2008–2009 New York State English language arts (ELA) assessment when compared to the year prior to the implementation of Foundations (i.e., 2005–2006). In 2009, there were no students at Level 1 (not meeting learning standards) compared to 7.8% of third graders in 2005–2006. There was also a 7% increase in the number of students in Grade 3 scoring at Levels 3 and 4 (Level 3 as meeting learning standards and Level 4 as meeting learning standards with distinction).

Table 1. Student Performance After Three Years of Foundations Implementation

Urban Elementary School, NYC, Grade 3 End of Year ELA Performance

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 3 & 4
0 years of Foundations (2005–2006)	7.8	7.8	72.5	11.8	84.3
3 years of Foundations (2008–2009)	0	8.6	72.9	18.6	91.4
Level 1: Not meeting learning standards	Level 2: Partially meeting learning standards				
Level 3: Meeting learning standards	Level 4: Meeting learning standards with distinction				

Due to the success of the pilot schools working with the NYC Department of Education, RTI expanded to 29 more schools throughout the city. In Fall 2009, the school where Foundations was initially implemented was selected as a National Blue Ribbon School.

Building and Sustaining Capacity for Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction Leads to Improved Student Performance: Implementing a Multi-Tiered System of Support Salisbury, MA

School leadership at a school in Salisbury, Massachusetts, was determined and committed to ensuring all students met reading benchmarks. One component of the school's solution was the selection of an evidence-based supplemental reading and spelling program, Wilson Foundations®. The school developed a literacy plan to implement Foundations within an RTI Framework. Foundations was implemented as the evidence-based program in Tiers 1 and 2. All students received standard Foundations daily instruction in the Tier 1 general education classroom. Students identified for Tier 2 instruction received Foundations intervention instruction.

Professional Development and Support

The school emphasized teaching the core curriculum with fidelity through collaborative work by data coaches and professional development for teachers and reading specialists. Teachers and reading specialists were fully trained in Wilson Foundations with workshops and received periodic implementation and coaching support and fidelity checks by a Wilson® Literacy Specialist. Foundations Facilitator development was included and resulted in school-based support provided by this individual to coach and co-teach with new teachers. Teachers were provided with opportunities for peer observation and observing a more experienced teacher.

Outcomes

Student benchmark data from the DIBELS were available for a kindergarten class receiving Foundations instruction. As depicted in Figure 1, the kindergarten students in this class achieved statistically significant growth in their composite DIBELS scores over the course of the year, $F(2, 50) = 183.29$, $MSE = 534.62$, $p < 0.001$, $\eta^2 = 0.89$. From the beginning to the end of the year, students' composite DIBELS scores grew over 4 standard deviations, $d = 4.46$. In addition, as depicted in Figure 2, over half of the incoming class of kindergarten students was recommended to receive intensive or strategic instruction based on their DIBELS composite scores, but by the end of the year, 81 % of class was recommended to receive core instruction.

Figure 1. Growth in Kindergarten Achievement

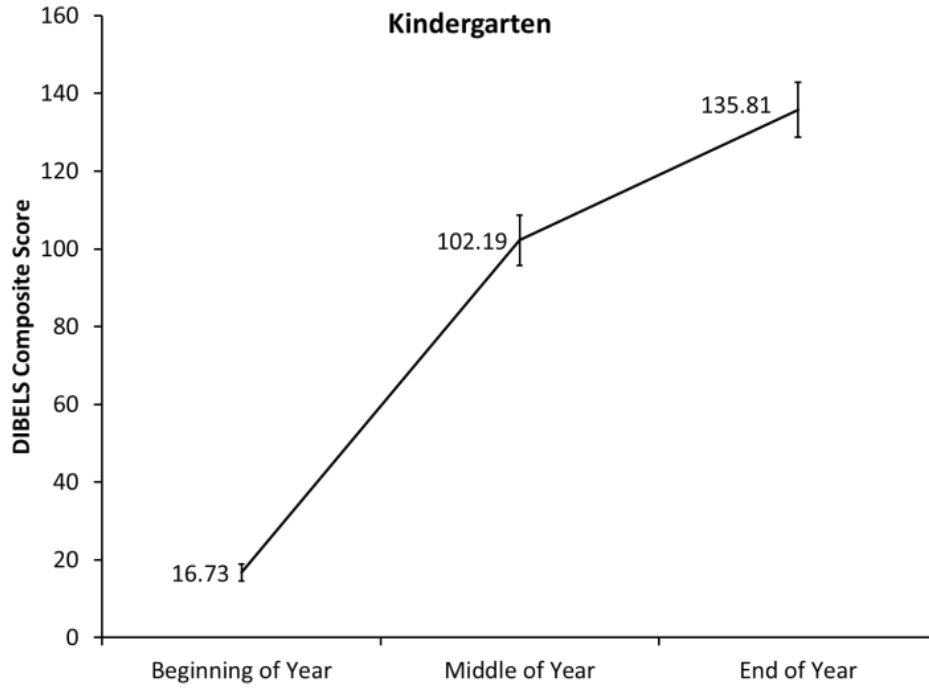
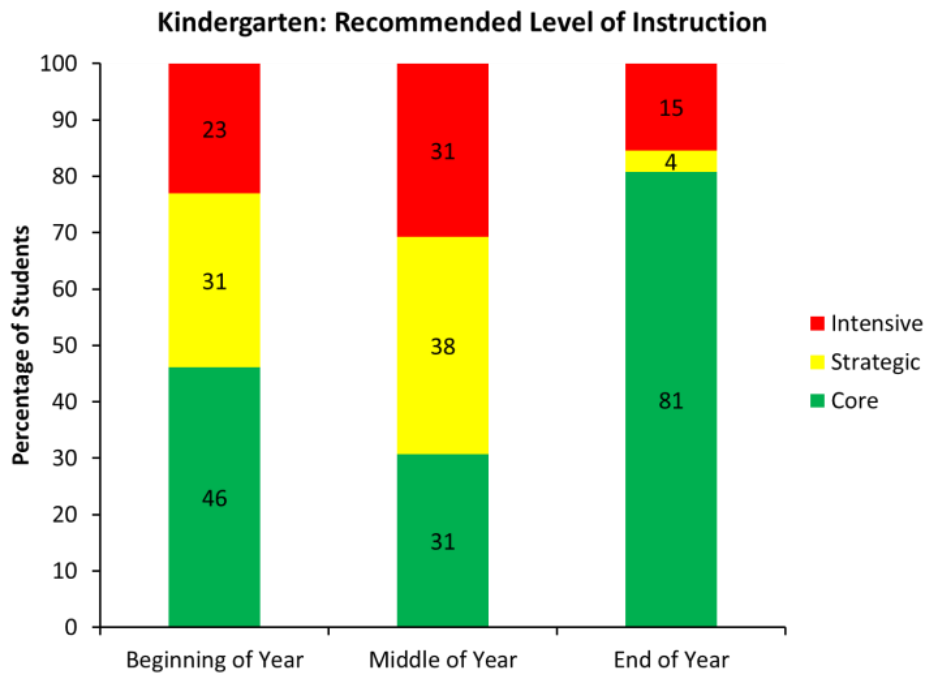


Figure 2. Recommended Level of Instruction for Kindergarten Students at Three Points in School Year



Benchmark data were also available for a first grade class that received Foundations instruction. As depicted in Figure 3, statistically significant growth was observed in the composite DIBELS scores of these students, $F(2, 32) = 21.78$, $MSE = 1698.84$, $p < 0.001$, $\eta^2 = 0.58$. From the beginning to the end of the year, students' composite DIBELS scores grew over two standard deviations, $d = 2.12$.

In the middle of the first grade, students were administered the DIBELS Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) subtest. This subtest measures both the number of words read correctly and percent accuracy.

As depicted in Figure 4, students made statistically significant gains from the middle to the end of the year in the number of words they read correctly; this measure increased on average over 1.5 standard deviations, $t(16) = 9.03$, $p < 0.001$, $d = 1.66$.

Moreover, the students made significant gains in word reading accuracy, improving on average almost 2 standard deviations (see Figure 2C), $t(16) = 9.91$, $p < .001$, $d = 1.82$.

In addition, as depicted in Figure 5, over 80% of the incoming first grade class was recommended to receive intensive instruction based on their DIBELS composite scores. By the end of the year, 71 % of the students in this class were recommended to receive core instruction (refer to Figure 6).

Figure 3. Growth in Grade 1 Achievement

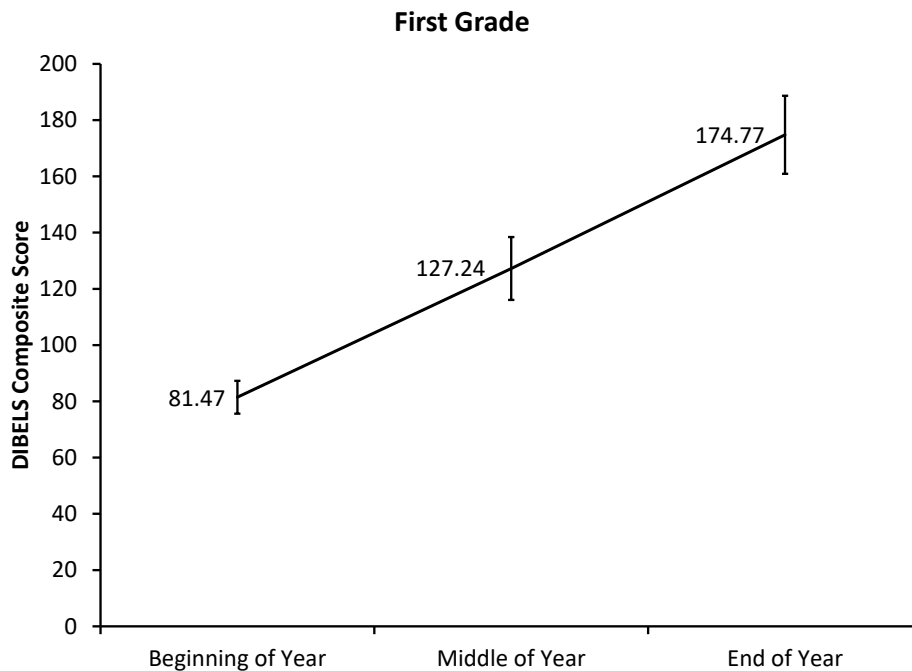


Figure 4. Growth in Grade 1 Achievement in Oral Reading Fluency—Words Correct

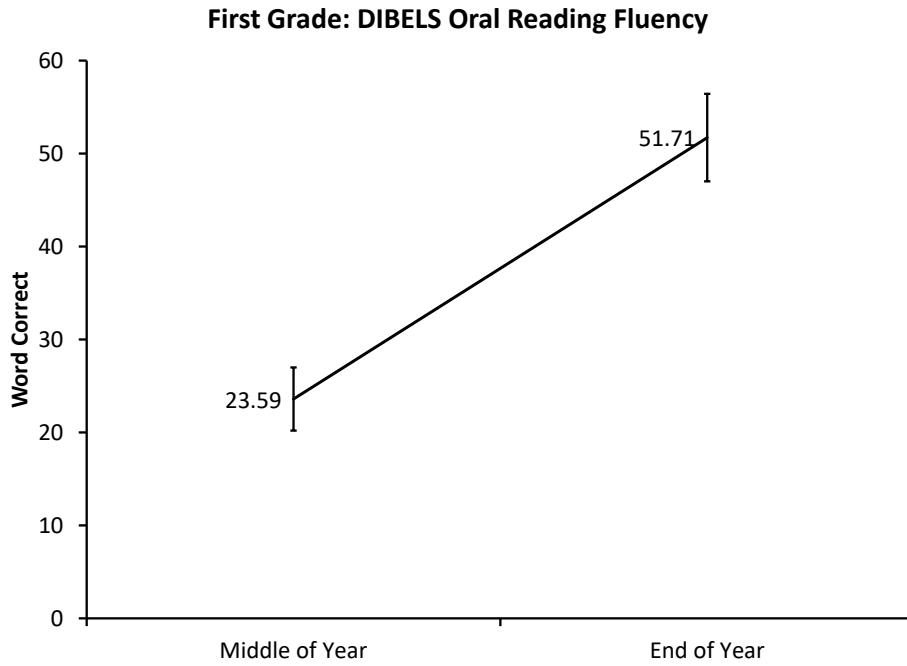


Figure 5. Growth in Grade 1 Achievement in Oral Reading Fluency—Accuracy

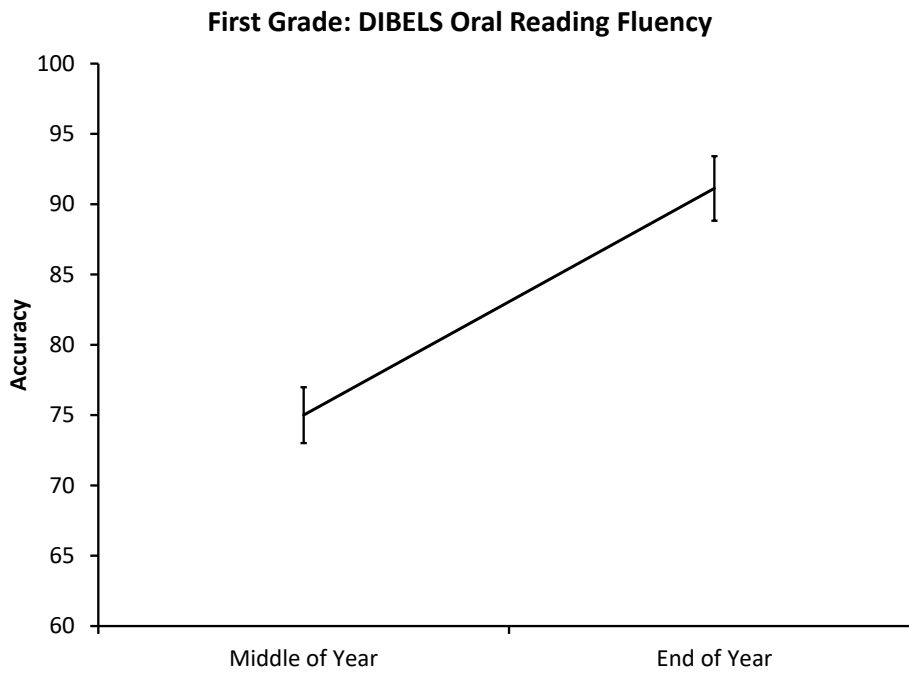
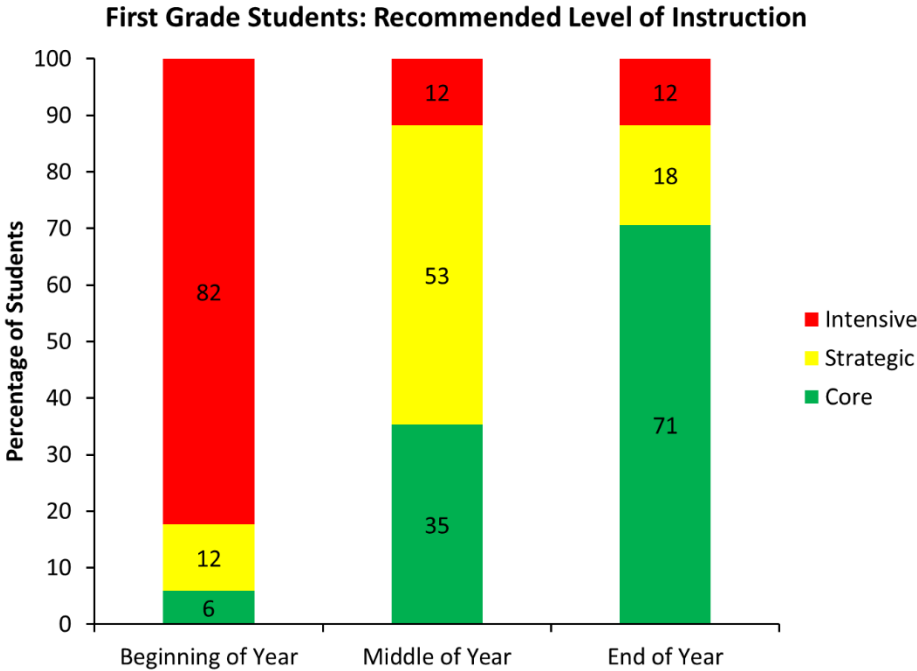


Figure 6. Recommended Level of Instruction for Grade 1 at Three Points in the School Year



Small Town Elementary School Intensive Reading and Writing Project Study of Implementation at Tiers 1 & 2 Northeast, US

During the 2002-2003 school year, an elementary school located in a small town in the northeastern United States adopted Foundations® as the phonics and spelling component of its ELA block in general education kindergarten classrooms. In addition, the school adopted Foundations for use with first-grade students identified as “at-risk” for reading failure who were placed in an intensive reading and writing classroom. The school assessed the effect of Foundations on the success of these students in a pair of studies.

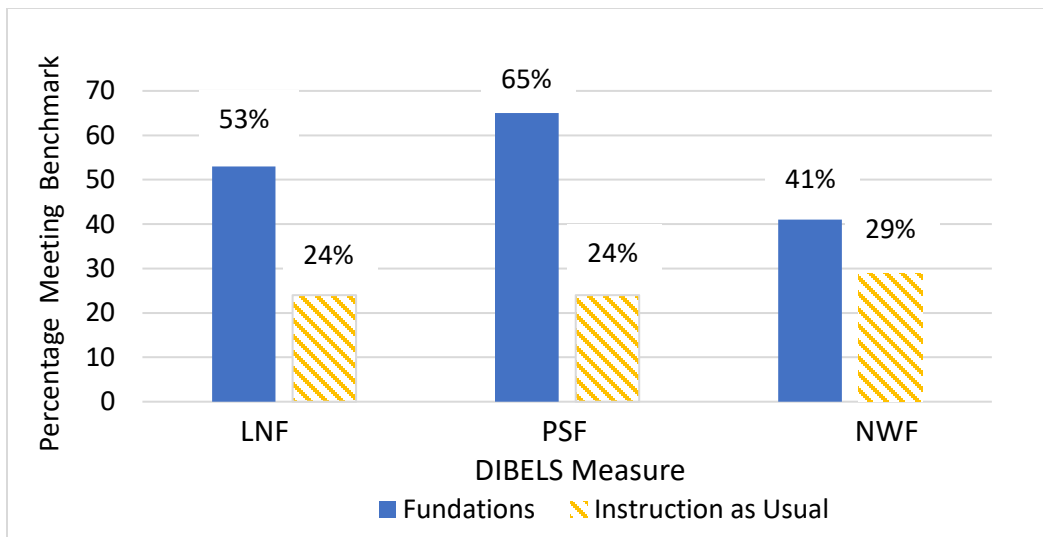
Tier 1: Kindergarten

To assess the success of Foundations in meeting the needs of their general education kindergarten students, the school conducted an impact study. A treatment and control group were randomly assigned with 17 kindergarten students receiving Foundations Level K, and 17 kindergarten students receiving instruction as usual.

End-of-year DIBELS scores were compared between the two groups of students. Relative to students in the instruction-as-usual condition, a larger percentage of students in the Foundations condition scored at or above benchmark on the Letter Naming Fluency, Phoneme Segmentation Fluency, and Nonword Fluency measures of DIBELS as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1

Kindergarten End of Year DIBELS Results



Note. Percentage of kindergarten students scoring at or above benchmark on end-of-year DIBELS. LNF = Letter Naming Fluency; PSF = Phoneme Segmentation Fluency; NWF = Nonsense Word Fluency.

Tier 2: Intervention: Grade 1

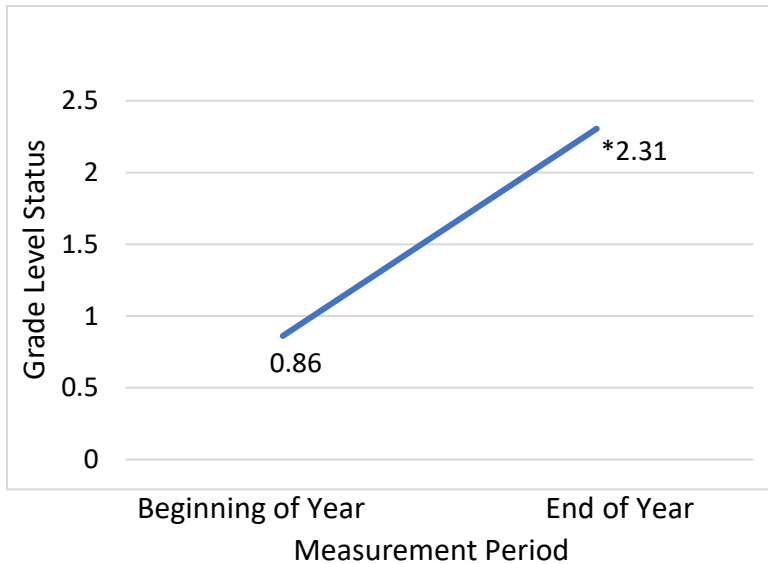
First grade students identified as “at-risk” for reading failure were placed in an intensive Tier 2 reading and writing classroom; they received Foundations® as their primary decoding and spelling program. An efficacy study of Foundations was performed, and student data were collected at the beginning and end of the school year using the Woodcock Johnson III (WJIII) *Basic Reading Skills* subtest. The WJIII Basic Reading Skills subtest is a combination of the Letter-Word Identification and the Word Attack.

As illustrated in Figure 2, students made significant gains in on the Basic Reading Skills subtest from the beginning ($M = .86$, $SD = .47$) to the end ($M = 2.31$, $SD = .60$) of the school year, $t(17) = 13.41$, gaining 1.4 grade levels. $p < .001$.

At the end of first grade, 16 of 18 students achieved at or above grade level on the Basic Reading subtest (a grade equivalent score of Grade 2 or higher).

Figure 2

Grade Level Growth in Tier 2 Instruction



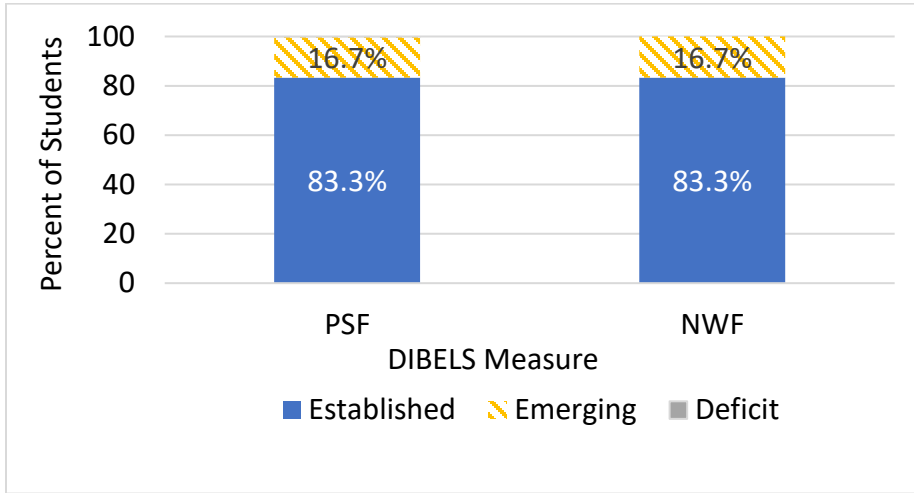
Note. The mean grade level growth in the Woodcock Johnson III (WJIII) Basic Reading Skills for grade 1 students at-risk.

* $p < .001$

Additionally, no Foundations students had deficits; 15 out of 18 students scored at or above benchmark on the end-of-year DIBELS Phoneme Segmentation Fluency and Nonsense Word Fluency measures (see Figure 3).

Figure 3

Percent of Grade 1 At-risk Students Meeting Benchmarks on End-of-Year DIBELS Subtests



Note. The percent of at-risk grade 1 students' end-of-year status. No student performance indicated a deficit status. Students performed at an established or emerging status. PSF = DIBELS Phoneme Segmentation Fluency; NWF = Nonsense Word Fluency.

East Gloucester Elementary School

Impact of Tier 1 Implementation on Grade 3 Students

Gloucester, MA

A group of Massachusetts students that received Foundations® Levels 1 to 3 in the general education classroom were administered the Word Identification and Spelling Test (WIST); this standardized test was administered by school district personnel to determine if students were on grade level for reading and spelling.

Analysis of East Gloucester Grade 3 student data demonstrated that:

- 94% of the students were reading real words at or above grade level (75% at Grade 5 or higher)
- 100% of the students were reading irregular words at or above grade level (94% at Grade 5 or higher)
- 97% of the students were spelling words at or above grade level (94% at Grade 5 or higher)
- 100% of the students were spelling irregular words at grade level (81% at Grade 5 or higher).

Urban Elementary School

Impact of Tier 1 Implementation on Grade K Students

Worcester, MA

This institution is one of several in the city that had received a Level 4 performance rating (lowest) by the State of Massachusetts. Foundations was implemented in 2010-2011 and achieved the following results in kindergarten by the 2014–2015 school year:

- 82% (103) of the school’s Kindergarten students (n=125) had reached benchmark on the DIBELS PSF measure, an increase of 32 percentage points over its pre-Foundations results.
- 65% of kindergarten students (n=81) reached benchmark on the NWF-CLS measure, an increase of 15 percentage points over its previous Foundations results.
- Only 44% of kindergarten students (n=55) were identified as needing intensive intervention based on the DIBELS PSF and DIBELS NWF-CLS; a reduction of 30 percentage points and 11 points respectively after using Foundations.

Baltimore County Public Schools Impact on Grades K and 1 in Primary Adaptive Classrooms Baltimore, MD

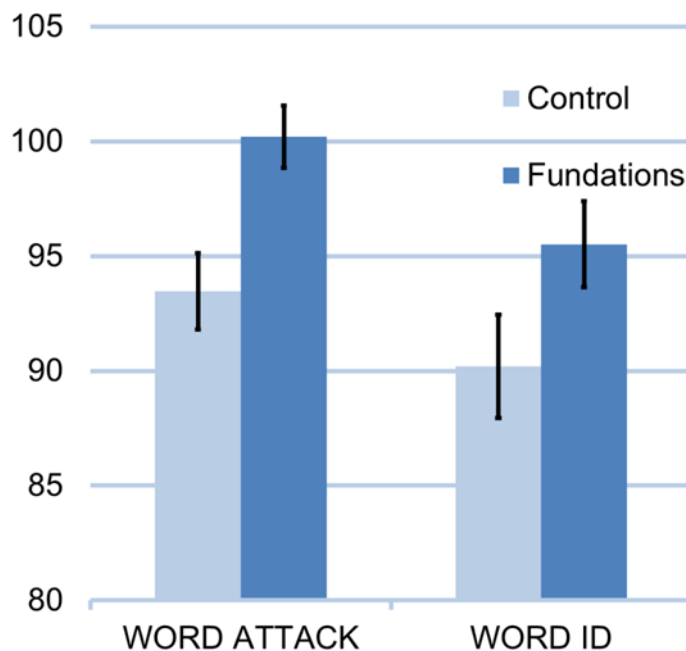
Fundations® Levels K and 1 were piloted in several elementary schools across the Baltimore County Public School district in 2002–2003 to supplement the adopted phonics program, which was not meeting the needs of students in the Primary Adaptive programs.

Those in the Primary Adaptive self-contained classrooms with students ranging in Grades 1–3 received Fundations Level 1 instruction. The lessons were delivered daily to the whole class (about 12–15 students). Students were then divided into small groups for an additional 20 minutes of Fundations activities depending on their skill level and needs.

Forty-five students were assigned to the control group; 68 students were in the Fundations experimental group. Data was collected and reported by Baltimore County staff at the end of the school year.

Relative to the control group, students in the Fundations experimental group had higher Word Attack and Word Identification scores at the end of the year, $t(111) = 3.14, p = 0.001$; $t(111) = 1.81, p = 0.04$ (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Post-implementation Results for Word Attack and Word Identification



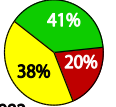
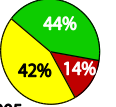
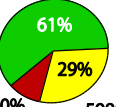
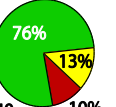
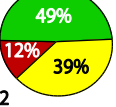
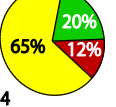
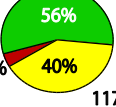
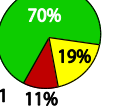
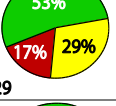
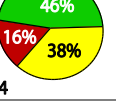
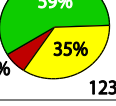
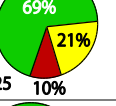
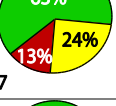
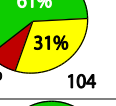
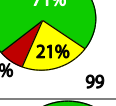
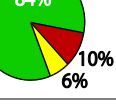
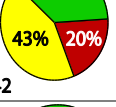
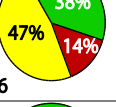
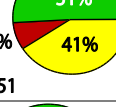
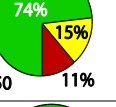
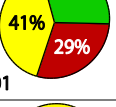
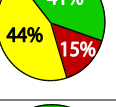
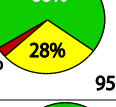
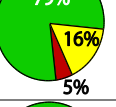
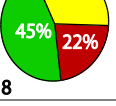
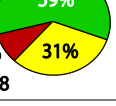
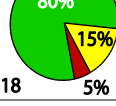
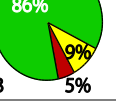
Broward County Public Schools
 Impact on Reading First Kindergarten Classrooms
 Broward County, FL

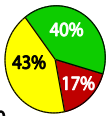
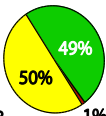
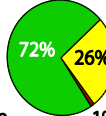
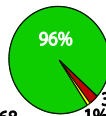
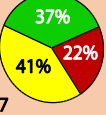
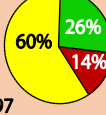
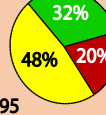
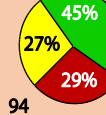
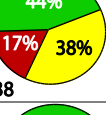
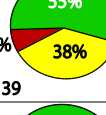
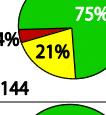
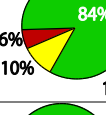
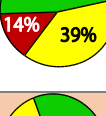
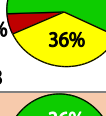
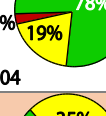
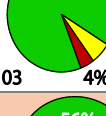
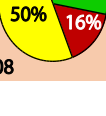
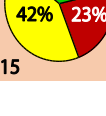
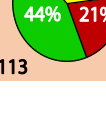
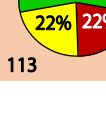
Fundations® was the suggested kindergarten program that could be used in place of the basal phonics component for the 52 Reading First Schools of Broward County in 2005–2006. The program was delivered during small-group instruction as part of the uninterrupted 90 to 120 minute reading block.

The following samples from the Florida Progress Monitoring and Reporting Network show the quarterly Recommended Level of Instruction for the 2005–2006 school year.

The top row shows the district kindergarten grade summary, with subsequent rows representing individual schools. Schools 8 and 11 were *not* using Fundations with fidelity and are highlighted in red in the figure that follows. (See Table 1.)

Table 1. Kindergarten Classes Across 11 Schools Within Broward County Public Schools

District	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Assessment 3	Assessment 4
Grade Summary	 5982	 6005	 10% 5988	 5940 10%
School 1	 122	 114	 4% 117	 111 11%
School 2	 129	 134	 7% 123	 125 10%
School 3	 107	 9% 104	 8% 99	 97 6%
School 4	 142	 146	 8% 151	 150 11%
School 5	 101	 95	 3% 95	 95 5%
School 6	 118	 9% 118	 118 5%	 123 5%

District	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Assessment 3	Assessment 4
School 7	 70	 68	 69	 68
School 8	 97	 97	 95	 94
School 9	 138	 139	 144	 139
School 10	 94	 98	 104	 103
School 11	 108	 115	 113	 113

Freedom Shores Elementary School

Impact of Tier 1 and 2 Implementation on Grades K and 1 Students

Palm Beach County, FL

Freedom Shores Elementary is a Title I school in Palm Beach County, Florida. Foundations® is taught to all kindergarten and first grade students for 30 minutes daily; intervention lessons were given to students who needed additional support.

District-level Wilson® Trainers credentialed to support Foundations provided workshops and coaching. A Foundations® Facilitator was developed at the building level during a year-long program with a Wilson® Literacy Specialist.

Outcomes

Freedom Shores Elementary received ongoing “A” Report Cards from the state of Florida. Due to its success, it was chosen as a Foundations Demonstration Site for the district (which has 140 elementary schools). A summary of end-of-year data for 2011 noted the following:

- **Grade K Data Analysis:** As a result of one year of Foundations instruction, 81% (107) of all students in kindergarten were at or above grade level as determined by the District’s Pupil Progression.
- **Grade 1 Data Analysis:** As a result of two years of Foundations instruction, 90% (77) of all students in Grade 1 were at or above grade level as determined by the District’s Pupil Progression.

Program Review by Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR)

Fundations® was reviewed by the Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR) research committee. Under the direction of Dr. Joseph Torgesen, this center was one of three national technical assistance centers to support the implementation of research-based reading instruction. FCRR’s report outlines how Fundations is aligned with research and lists the strengths and weaknesses of the program. No weaknesses were noted. Table 1 summarizes the FCRR’s rating.

Below is a summary from the report, which can be found at www.fcrr.org.

Strengths of the Fundations Program

- Fundations is highly systematic, both within lessons and across lessons.
- Fundations is derived from research that has been proven to be successful with a wide variety of learners.
- Multisensory methods are employed in teaching children sounds, their representative letters, and their combination into words, phrases, and sentences.
- Students learn a variety of techniques to analyze multisyllabic and unknown words, and words with spelling options.
- Frequent practice and review builds mastery in students.
- Fundations can be taught in a 1:1 setting, a small group, or to a whole class, and can be used for preventative, intervention, or immediate, intensive intervention purposes.
- Many lesson activities and games are geared toward whole class or group participation.
- Materials are very teacher-friendly, and the Wilson Learning Community gives excellent demonstrations of each of the teaching activity types used in the program. A teacher can thus review each technique as needed.

Weakness of the Fundations Program

- None were noted.

Table 1. FCRR Summary Rating for Fundations

Program	Type of Program	Grade Reviewed	Reading Components				
			Phonemic Awareness	Phonics	Fluency	Vocab	Comprehension
Fundations	Supplemental or Intervention Program	K-3	+++	+++	+++	+++	++

Key

- + some aspects of this component taught and/or practiced
- ++ most aspects of this component taught and/or practiced
- +++ all aspects of this component taught and/or practiced
- n/a Not Addressed in this program. In other words, this element of reading is not a goal of this program.