m^eeasuring Up

Measuring Up MyQuest® Raises Reading Achievement on the English Language Arts Common Core State Standards

Research

Measuring Up MyQuest *Practice Results in Significant Gains in Reading Achievement for Seventh- and Eighth-Grade Students*

DISTRICT CHARACTERISTICS

A New Jersey PreK-12 school system with approximately 4,900 students enrolled in the 2015-2016 school year was analyzed. The majority of students in the district were Caucasian (60%). In addition, there were students from minority backgrounds including African American (36%), Hispanic (1%), Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian, and students of mixed race (<1%). One percent of students had an Individualized Education Program (IEP), and less than 1% of students were English Language Learners (ELLs).

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

A middle school, grades 7th and 8th, within this district, with 831 students enrolled. The majority of students were African American (61%). In addition, students were Caucasian (25%), Hispanic (11%), Asian/Pacific Islander (3%), and mixed race (<1%). There was a nearly equal distribution of girls (49%) and boys (51%). Fifty-nine percent of students, were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

PARTICIPANTS

A total of 309 students in the 7th grade and 236 students in the 8th grade participated.

Selection criteria for the analysis included:

1. Completed the September 2015 district-wide administration of the *Measuring Up Insight*® ELA assessment

2. Completed the April 2016 district-wide administration of the *Measuring Up Insight* ELA assessment

3. Participated in *Measuring Up MyQuest* instructional practice throughout the school year

IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW

In the 2015-2016 school year, students participated in utilizing *Measuring Up MyQuest* as a supplement to their curricular experience. *Measuring Up MyQuest* is an adaptive learning program that provides a personalized path for students to practice the Common Core State Standards-aligned skills needed to succeed on the PARCC. *Measuring Up MyQuest* provides corrective feedback as a scaffold for student learning and a positive reinforcement reward system to encourage student engagement. Students worked at their own pace (reported as minutes per session), completing ELA skills practice items tailor-made for their individual needs throughout the school year.

MEASURES

In September 2015 and April 2016, there was a district-wide administration of the *Measuring Up Insight* assessment. *Measuring Up Insight* is an online formative assessment tool with customizable, technology-enhanced items that follow the form and function outlined by PARCC. *Measuring Up Insight* also provides teachers and administrators with actionable reporting capabilities to inform individualization of instruction to meet students' needs. Performance on the assessments is reported as scale scores ranging from 1 to 36 (7th grade) and 1 to 38 (8th grade).

COMMON CORE ELA STANDARDS

The practice and assessment items examined in this study delivered through *Measuring Up MyQuest* and *Measuring Up Insight* were aligned to the following standards:

7TH GRADE STANDARDS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.7.4.A
Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L7.4.B
Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., belligerent, bellicose, rebel).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L7.5.A
Interpret figures of speech (e.g., literary, biblical, and mythological allusions) in context.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.2
Determine two or more central ideas in a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.3
Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.5
Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.6
Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.8
Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.2
Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3
Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.4
Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.6
Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.

8TH GRADE STANDARDS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.4.A
Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.4.B
Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., precede, recede, secede).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.2
Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.3
Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.4
Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.5
Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.6
Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.8
Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.2
Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.3
Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.4
Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.5
Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.6
Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.
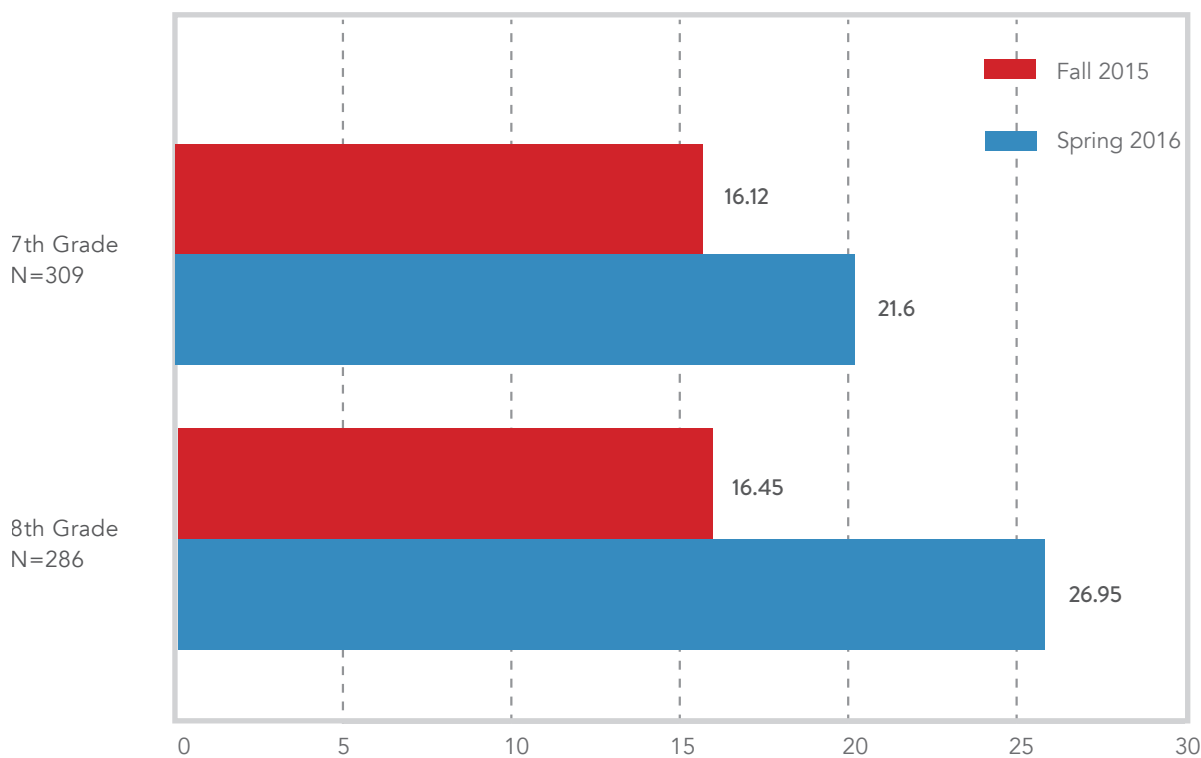
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.9
Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new.

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RESULTS

Findings show that both 7th- and 8th-grade students demonstrated statistically significant gains (p < .05) in literacy skills on the *Measuring Up Insight* test from fall 2015 to spring 2016. Students in 7th grade experienced an average gain of 5.27 points (see graph below), while students in 8th grade experienced an average gain of 10.82 points. *Measuring Up Insight* tests for both 7th- and 8th-grade students show strong reliability scores as well. Reliability statistics for the 7th-grade pretest and post-test were a = .81 and a = .86 respectively.

Findings indicate that 7th-grade students spent on average 38.18 minutes per standard of practice time in *Measuring Up MyQuest*, while 8th-grade students spent on average 81.44 minutes per standard. Practice time is reported as the average time in minutes spent per standard over the course of the school year. There was a statistically significant correlation (p < .01) between 7th-grade students' gains and their practice time in *Measuring Up MyQuest.*

MEASURING UP INSIGHT ELA SCORES

CONCLUSION

Results from these longitudinal gains analyses illustrate that 7th- and 8th-grade students made significant improvement in reading achievement over the school year as measured by *Measuring Up Insight*. *Measuring Up Insight* has been shown to be an effective and reliable tool for assessing Common Core State Standards-aligned literacy skills for 7th- and 8th-grade students. Results from the correlation analyses reveal that a significant relationship exists between *Measuring Up MyQuest*

usage and reading outcomes, such that the more practice time 7th-grade students spent in *Measuring Up MyQuest* the greater their average gain scores. In summary, this study demonstrates that *Measuring Up Insight* is an effective tool for measuring students' reading achievement, and *Measuring Up MyQuest* is an effective tool for increasing students' reading achievement.

REFERENCE

Common Core State Standards Initiative. (2016). Retrieved from http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/

At Mastery Education, we understand both the profound importance and the practical challenges of nurturing 21st-century skills in the classroom. To improve students' skills, knowledge, and readiness for assessment, our research-based products provide rigorous content and scaffolded support, real-world applications and problem-based learning, formative assessment and plenty of practice. Like you, we are constantly striving to deliver opportunities that provide richer and deeper learning experiences and that prepare students for the challenges of mastering today's standards and unlocking all the possibilities of a brilliant future.

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