imagine
language & literacy

Increased Use of Imagine Language & Literacy Associated with Greater Gains for K–5 Multilingual Learners in Washington

OVERVIEW

The Yakima School District has about 16,000 students from preschool to 12th grade. Most students are Hispanic/Latinx and come from homes in which more than one language is spoken. In the 2021–2022 school year, the Yakima School District worked with Imagine Learning to offer English reading support to all multilingual learners.

The Yakima School District used Imagine Language & Literacy to help multilingual students in Grades K–5. On average, students spent about 15 hours using Imagine Language & Literacy and completed around 19 lessons. To see how much their English reading skills improved from using Imagine Language & Literacy, Imagine Learning looked at how well the students did on tests like the mCLASS DIBELS, Smarter Balanced (SBA), and WIDA ACCESS 2.0.

Yakima School District

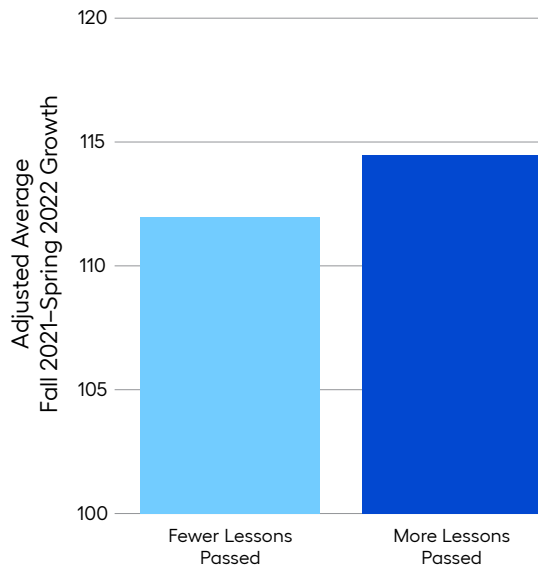| Demographics (N = 1,951)	Percent
Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino	27%
Hispanic/Latino	70%
Other	3%
Female	49%
Free or Reduced-Price Lunch	93%
Special Education Status	14%

RESULTS

The results of the study show that students in Grades K–5 who completed more Imagine Language & Literacy lessons improved more on the DIBELS tests from Fall 2021 to Spring 2022 than similar students who passed fewer lessons (Figure 1). Also, students in Grades 3–5 who completed more Imagine Language & Literacy lessons scored higher on their SBA tests than similar students who completed fewer lessons (Figure 2). The same pattern was also seen for the WIDA ACCESS 2.0 assessment (Figure 3). This means that when students complete more lessons in the Imagine Language & Literacy program, they tend to do better on tests of English reading skill.

* 'More' and 'Fewer' lessons passed groups determined based on whether students achieved above or on/below the median lessons passed for students in their grade.
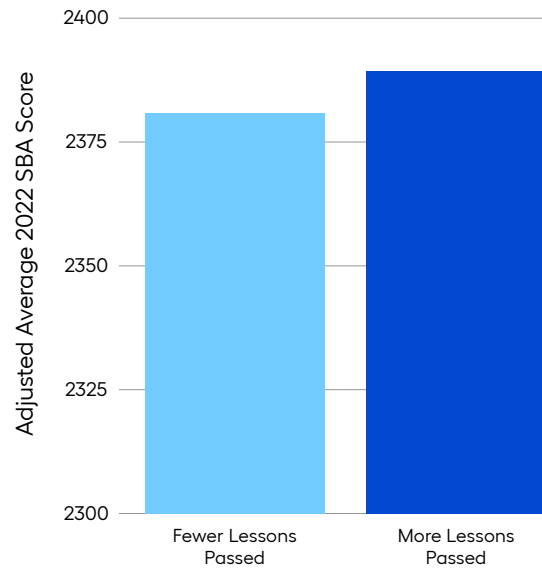
† Propensity score matching used to identify highly similar students based on baseline assessment performance and demographic factors (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity, special education classification).

Figure 1. Average Fall to Spring DIBELS Score Growth, 2021–2022 Washington Imagine Language & Literacy Students, Grades K–5.
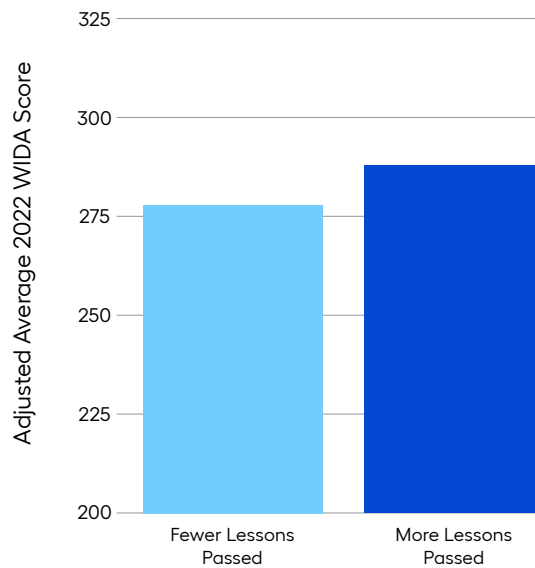
Adjusted Average Fall 2021–Spring 2022 Growth

Fewer Lessons Passed | More Lessons Passed

Note: p = 0.021

Figure 2. Average 2022 Smarter Balanced Scores, 2021–2022 Washington Imagine Language & Literacy Students, Grades 3–5

Adjusted Average 2022 SBA Score

Fewer Lessons Passed | More Lessons Passed

Note: p = 0.037

Figure 3. Average 2022 WIDA ACCESS 2.0 Score, 2021–2022 Washington Imagine Language & Literacy Students, Grades K–5

Adjusted Average 2022 WIDA Score

Fewer Lessons Passed | More Lessons Passed

Note: p = 0.001