



REPORT - INTENSIVE SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM STUDY

Study. The Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC) conducted a study of intensive summer reading programs (ISRPs) in the summer of 2016 with the goal of evaluating possible reading programs and implementation procedures. The study was conducted across 44 school districts and community programs in Iowa, with classes of 15 students assigned to one of the three types of reading programs:

- Study-chosen, print-based program.
- Study-chosen, computer-based program.
- District-chosen intervention (business as usual model).

The print- and computer-based programs used in the study were selected based on their internal and external validity and having had their efficacy backed by previous research.

Three Area Education Agencies (AEAs) were engaged in the study and provided support to the local education agencies (LEAs). Many LEAs struggled to meet the staffing requirements, and three eligible districts dropped out of the study after being unable to secure qualified staff. Student attrition was also a factor in the study, as there was a 21.0% drop off between the pre-test and post-test attendance, with the rate being highest for females, students on free or reduced lunch, students of color, and students in Title I programs. The program was voluntary, which may have affected the participation rate.

Results. All three types of reading programs in the study were preventive of summer reading loss; however, none of the conditions led to statistically significant growth in reading skills.

In the school district-chosen intervention model, students of color benefited less than their white peers. English language learners did not benefit as much as other students in the computer-based programs. Students who received special education services performed below their peers regardless of the intervention program.

Further Analysis. The IRRC estimates that the cost of providing ISRPs to all eligible students would be \$13.8 million, or an estimated \$1,813 per student.

The complete report with further recommendations from the IRRC can be found [here](#).

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