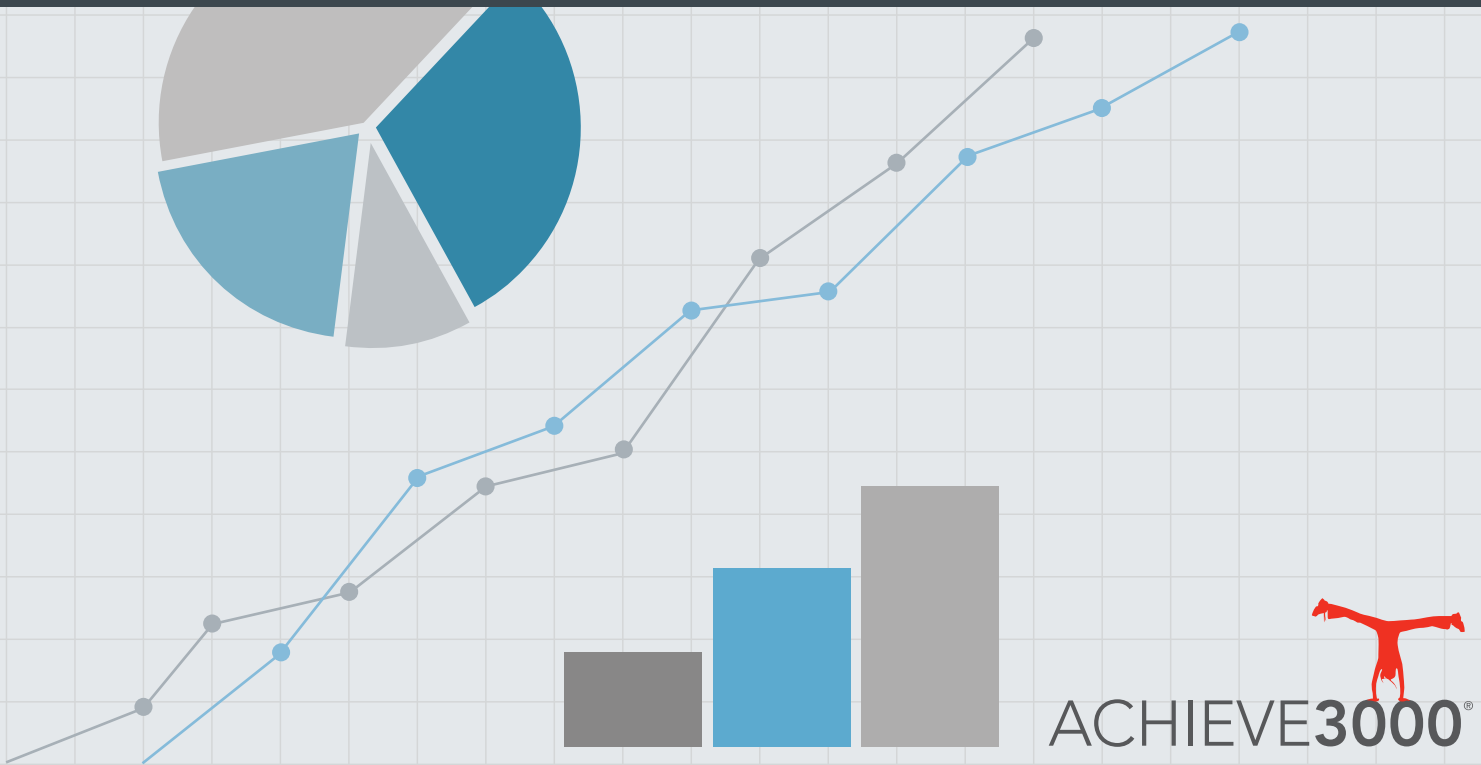# Achieve Intensive Impact Report

Summer 2016

ACHIEVE3000®

OVERVIEW

Achieve3000's brand-new rapid intervention solution, Achieve Intensive, was piloted as part of a large urban school district's summer program during the summer of 2016 for students in 3rd, 6th and 8th grades. This summer program specifically targeted students who performed in the bottom quarter on the state's summative assessment – below grade-level learners who were especially at risk for summer reading loss.
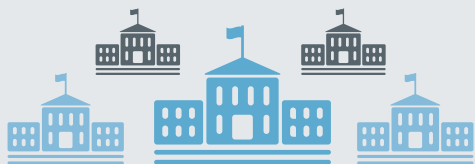
Students in this report used Achieve Intensive for the duration of the district's five-week program. Most students also completed the LevelSet™ pre-test in the first week of the program as well as the LevelSet post-test by the end of the program to measure overall student reading growth.

The district examined is one of the largest in the United States. Roughly one-third of the district's students are African American, one-tenth are white and just under half are Hispanic. Approximately one-sixth of the students are English language learners (ELLs) and four-fifths are considered economically disadvantaged.

HIGHLIGHTS

5-WEEK evaluation period

50 participating schools

5,398 active users
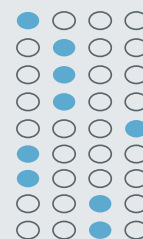
Average increase of **43** LEXILE® POINTS for students across the district

Students made **2-6 MONTHS** of growth in **5 weeks**

112,139 multiple-choice activities done

8,729 hours that teachers used the program

114,424 hours of online instruction delivered

50 STUDENTS & 10 TEACHERS

won contest prizes

THE LITERACY PLATFORM

Achieve3000 is the leading literacy platform in blended learning programs today, serving over two million students worldwide each year. Based on decades of scientific research, Achieve3000's cloud-based solutions for grades PreK-12 and adult education reach students at their individual reading levels to accelerate their learning, improve high-stakes test performance and prepare them for college and career success.

Achieve3000 offers the world's only patented method of online differentiated instruction, which tailors the same grade-appropriate lessons at 12 levels in English and 7 in Spanish to reach every student in the entire class at their specific Lexile reading levels. As students complete reading activities, embedded assessments continually monitor their performance and provide educators with actionable data to drive instruction and inform intervention. This extends teachers' reach without increasing workloads and empowers them to move their students up surely and steadily, level by level. In fact, Achieve3000's solutions have been proven to accelerate reading comprehension, fluency, writing proficiency and vocabulary development.

The solution examined in this study, Achieve Intensive, is designed for rapid intervention programs and provides up to 10 weeks of targeted daily literacy instruction: 6 weeks of teacher-led direct instruction, allowing for over 2 hours of instruction time each day, followed by 4 weeks of independent study. Each high-interest, grade-appropriate lesson features fully integrated supports for struggling readers, special education students and English language learners.

THE ASSESSMENT MEASURE

Achieve3000's proprietary assessment, LevelSet, is the world's only universal screener for reading comprehension of nonfiction text in both English and Spanish. Developed by Achieve3000 in conjunction with MetaMetrics®, the LevelSet assessment identifies each student's precise Lexile reading level and thus is a reliable means of matching students to informational text.

The result of more than 20 years of ongoing research, MetaMetrics' Lexile Framework for Reading is a scientific approach to reading and text measurement that has become the most widely adopted reading measure in use today. A key advantage of the Lexile Framework is that it measures both text complexity and reader ability using the same scale. This means that the ability to comprehend and the material being comprehended are evaluated using the same criteria.

Designed to work hand-in-hand with Achieve3000's differentiated literacy solutions, the LevelSet assessment can be administered up to three times a year – a pre-test at the beginning of the school year, an interim test at the middle of the school year and a post-test at the end of the school year – to measure student progress and provide a summative measurement of student growth. For this study, LevelSet was administered as a pre-test at the start of the summer program and as a post-test before the end of the program.

THE ANALYSIS

In the following analysis, we present the impact of the district's summer program, which utilized Achieve3000's Achieve Intensive literacy solution to help underperforming students in 3rd, 6th and 8th grade stay on track for the upcoming school year.

This report is intended to summarize the usage details and Lexile performance of students using Achieve Intensive over the five-week evaluation period. The information provided within this report is based on student data collected throughout the summer of 2016.
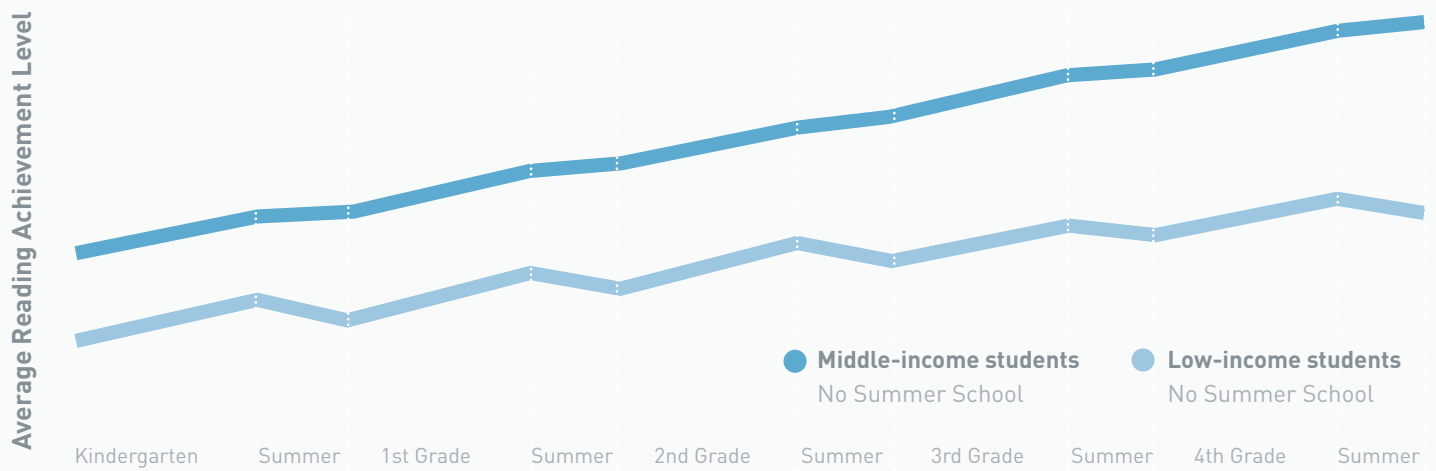
ADDRESSING SUMMER READING LOSS

Summer learning loss (also known as "summer slide" or "summer melt") is a systemic and well-documented phenomenon across the United States.[1] Researchers have also seen that persistent lack of summer learning opportunities plays a significant role in the educational achievement gap between high-income and low-income students and, ultimately, negatively impacts their graduation and college success.[2]

A meta-analysis of historical studies on summer learning loss estimated that **students lose the equivalent of one month of learning over the summer – and low-income students lose up to a month and a half**.[3] Because of this, the goal of many summer school programs is to prevent summer learning loss and to simply maintain struggling students' learning over the summer so they can begin the school year on track for success.

LONGITUDINAL IMPACT OF SUMMER LEARNING LOSS

Summary of Reading Achievement Trajectories

Average Reading Achievement Level

● **Middle-income students** No Summer School   ● **Low-income students** No Summer School

Kindergarten   Summer   1st Grade   Summer   2nd Grade   Summer   3rd Grade   Summer   4th Grade   Summer

Source: Fairchild, R., McLaughlin, B., & Brady, J. (2006). *Making the Most of Summer: A Handbook on Effective Summer Programming and Thematic Learning. Baltimore, MD: Center for Summer Learning.*

[1] Cooper, H., Charlton, K., Valentine, J. C., & Muhlenbruck, L., with Borman, G.D. (2000). Making the Most of Summer School: A Meta-Analytic and Narrative Review. *Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development, 65(1).*

[2] Alexander, K., Entwisle, D., & Olson, L. (2007). Consequences of the Summer Learning Gap. *American Sociological Review, April 2007(72), 167-180.*

[3] Cooper, H., Nye, B., Charlton, K., Lindsay, J., & Greathouse, S. (1996, Autumn). The Effects of Summer Vacation on Achievement Test Scores: A Narrative and Meta-Analytic Review. *Review of Educational Research, 66(3), 227-268.*
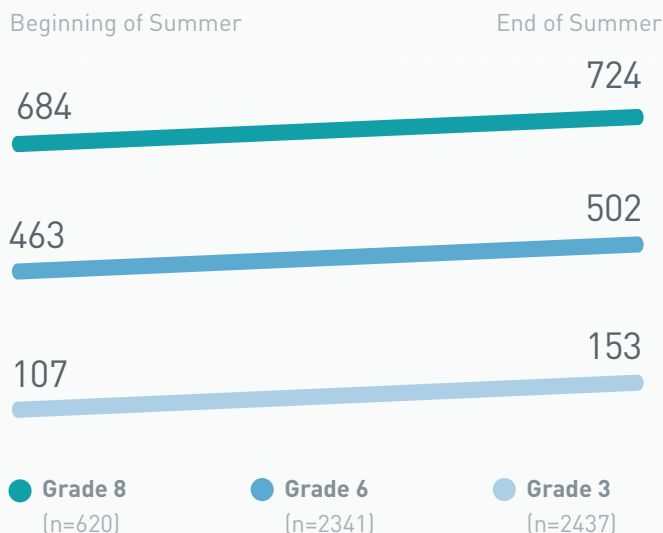
SUMMER LEXILE SCORES IN CONTEXT

Annual Expected Reading Gains		
GRADE	25TH PERCENTILE STUDENTS	50TH PERCENTILE STUDENTS
2	240L	300L
3	165L	100L
4	115L	100L
5	90L	100L
6	75L	70L
7	70L	70L
8	65L	50L
9	60L	50L
10	45L	25L
11	15L	25L

This district's summer program was specifically designed for below grade-level students who were especially at risk for summer reading loss: students in 3rd, 6th and 8th grades who had performed in the bottom quarter on the state's summative assessment.

Expected Lexile gains for this type of summer program are not currently available, though we can equate the gains made during the summer to growth estimated during a normal school year. Educators frequently want to know how much a student's reading ability should improve in a year, and they also realize that expectations should perhaps be different for struggling readers compared to typical readers. The table below displays the difference in grade-level performance between adjacent grades at two percentiles of the grade-level norms distribution; that is, the table presents spring-to-spring gains for typical (50th percentile) students and students at the 25th percentile in grades 2–11.

OVERALL STUDENT PERFORMANCE

SUMMER SCHOOL STUDENTS MADE **LEXILE GAINS** AT ALL GRADE LEVELS

Beginning of Summer   End of Summer

684   724

463   502

107   153

● **Grade 8**   ● **Grade 6**   ● **Grade 3**
(n=620)   (n=2341)   (n=2437)

While students entered the Achieve Intensive program far below grade level – and were at risk of falling further behind – **students instead grew an average of 43 Lexile points during this five-week program.** Further, at all grade levels for the district, students in this summer program on average showed increases in their Lexile scores.

This exceptional growth can have real classroom impact. Based on the historical Lexile gains estimated for students in the 25th percentile over the course of the school year, **students made gains over the five-week summer program that were the equivalent of approximately:**

- **one-quarter of a school year for 3rd graders**
- **one-half of a school year for 6th graders**
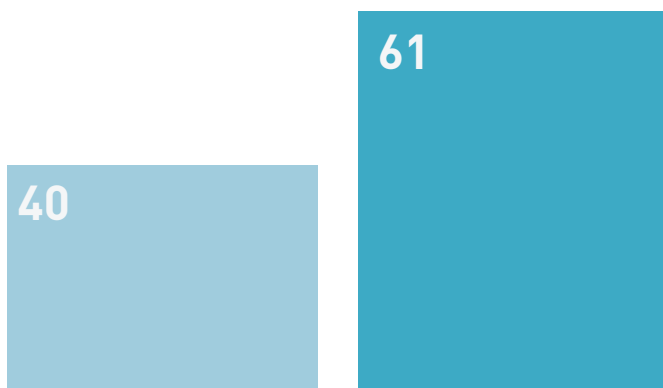- **two-thirds of a school year for 8th graders**

Students also exceeded their recommended usage across all three grade levels. Students were expected to complete at least 3 reading activities per week, measured here using the completion of the multiple-choice activity at the end of each session, for a total of 15 over the program. **On average,** **however, students completed 21 multiple-choice activities or one additional reading activity per week.** This represents a high level of engagement with the program and suggests students found the program very motivating.

Grade	Students with Pre- and Post-Test Scores	Average Pre-Test Lexile Score	Average Post-Test Lexile Score	Average Lexile Gains over the Summer	Average Multiple-Choice Activities Completed	Average First-Try Score
3	2,437	107	153	46	21	53%
6	2,341	463	502	40	21	64%
8	620	684	724	41	20	70%
Total	**5,398**	**327**	**370**	**43**	**21**	**59%**

EFFECT OF QUALITY PROGRAM USE ON STUDENT PERFORMANCE

LEXILE GAINS
BY QUALITY PROGRAM USE

61

40

- Mean Lexile Gains for Students with First-Try Scores Below 75%
- Mean Lexile Gains for Students with First-Try Scores At or Above 75%

The multiple-choice activity – a critical component of Achieve3000's signature Five-Step Literacy Routine – was used as a measure of the quality of program use. Students who score 75% or greater on the multiple-choice activity on their first try are identified as working within their instructional zone. In other words, scores within this range typically indicate that students are applying themselves to their work and reading at a level that fosters their literacy development.

On average, students with quality program use made Lexile gains 21 points greater than students scoring less than 75%.

CONCLUSION

Summer is a critical time in students' education. For too many students, "summer learning loss" or "summer slide" means they will experience a drop in learning levels during the summer break and may return to school in the fall needing additional instruction or even intervention before they can successfully participate in grade-level work.

By providing students with targeted and differentiated instruction during the summer, educators can help ensure their students maintain their learning levels over the summer break and even realize accelerated reading gains. As a result, with the right program, educators can turn summer into an opportunity to close the achievement gap and empower students to return to school better prepared for grade-level work.

As the Leader in Differentiated Instruction®, Achieve3000 is committed to providing educators with the most effective learning solutions for reaching every student one-on-one, at their individual reading levels, and dramatically accelerating their learning gains.

Achieve3000's brand-new rapid intervention solution, Achieve Intensive, helps educators accelerate learning gains with up to 10 weeks of targeted instruction (6 weeks of teacher-led direct instruction and 4 weeks of independent student work) that provides:

- **Differentiated Instruction:** High-interest, grade-appropriate text differentiated at 12 levels in English and 7 in Spanish engages students in nonfiction reading at their individual reading levels, with integrated learning supports for struggling readers and English language learners as well as a foundational literacy program for students who need to build or reinforce core reading skills

- **Blended Learning:** In addition to up to 2 hours a day of blended classroom learning, anytime, anywhere, any-device access empowers students to build and practice their literacy skills 24/7 – online and offline – as part of an intensive intervention program

- **Embedded Assessments:** An initial Lexile assessment automatically places students in the program and provides educators with key data about each student's abilities right at the start of the program, while embedded and ongoing assessments continually monitor students' progress and usage

- **Actionable Data:** Real-time reports – daily reports sent to teachers each night and weekly reports sent every Friday – and an at-a-glance dashboard for school and district leaders ensure all educators have instant access to key data so they can measure the effectiveness of their rapid intervention program and demonstrate success on a daily basis

- **Proven Efficacy:** Achieve3000's patented approach is proven to double or even triple expected learning gains – with students in this study making 2 to 6 months' of learning gains in only 5 weeks

In fact, Achieve3000's blended and differentiated literacy solutions have helped thousands of students nationwide to reach grade-level literacy goals. In addition to this analysis of summer learning growth, a recent study of 1.1 million students found an 80% increase in the percentage of students who were meeting grade-level college and career readiness goals after having used an Achieve3000 solution during the 2015-2016 school year.[4] Furthermore, Achieve3000 guarantees that students will make gains that are the equivalent of at least one-quarter of a school year when Achieve Intensive is used with fidelity for just 6 weeks.

For more information about how the Achieve3000 platform and the Achieve Intensive literacy solution can support your summer school programs or school-year literacy initiatives, please call 800-838-8771 or email info@achieve3000.com.

ACHIEVE3000®

THE LEADER IN DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION®

**Learn more about Achieve3000's
proven solutions today.**

Web: achieve3000.com
Phone: 800-838-8771
Email: info@achieve3000.com