



BrightFish Reading Case Study: Semester Results for High School & Adult Students



Fall 2016

Executive Summary

In this report, we examine high school data from the fall 2016 semester. Data included in this report was collected from four high schools using BrightFish Reading with students in grades 9-12 and adult learners. The schools are located in Alabama, Georgia, New Mexico and Utah.

Student Groups

Target student groups were Tier 2 (students reading 2 or more levels below grade), including English Learners, as well as adult learners enrolled in an alternative education program.

Implementation Model

BrightFish Reading was implemented in resource rooms using computers, Chromebooks and iPads. Students also accessed the program from home. To be included in the report, students had to complete a minimum of 30 minutes working in BrightFish Reading.

Semester Results

Based on data from the BrightFish Reading system, we collected usage and progress metrics during the period of September to December 2016. There were 51 students who trained for at least 30 minutes in BrightFish Reading, the minimum usage required to be included in the analysis. Scores reflect the percentages calculated by the BrightFish system.

Summary results include: :

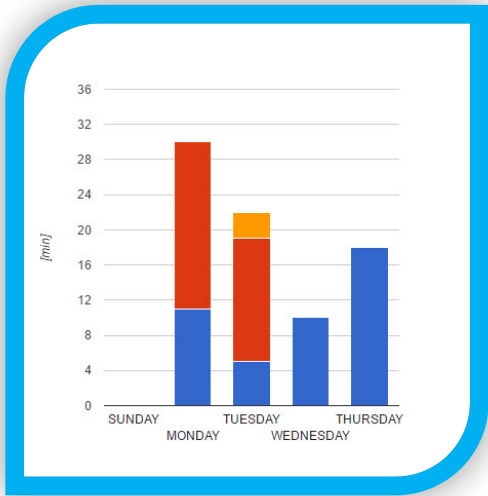
- 19 students completed at least one story, taking an average of 126 minutes per story
- Average vocabulary scores for the 19 students who completed at least one story: 57%
- Average growth in vocabulary scores for 12 students who completed at least two stories: 18 %
- Average comprehension scores for 19 students who completed at least one story:62%
- Average comprehension growth for 12 students who completed at least two stories:12%
- Average points accumulated for all 56 students: 26,000



Class Usage and Completion Metrics

In this section, we review the usage rates for BrightFish Reading over the fall semester in the four high schools included in the study. The minimum threshold for usage for inclusion in the report is 30 minutes.

The average training minutes per student is based on the number of students who met this minimum threshold. Summary data is presented across grade levels from the three schools using the program.

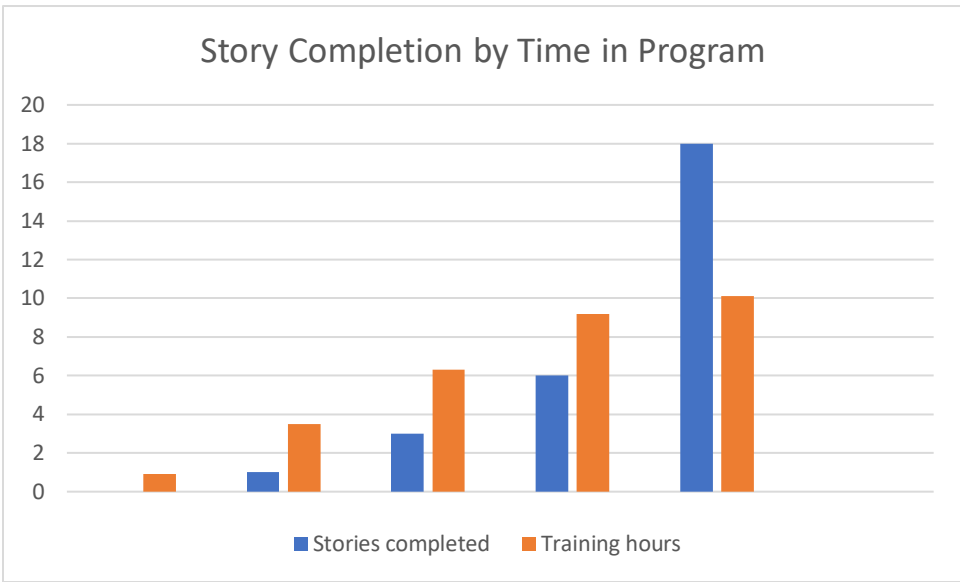


Average Usage

The average time in BrightFish Reading for the 51 students who met the minimum 30 minutes of usage was 174 minutes or just under three hours. The adult student group outperformed the rest of the sample. For this group, the average usage was 300 minutes or five hours. The difference may be attributed to scheduling and/or motivation for the adult learners.

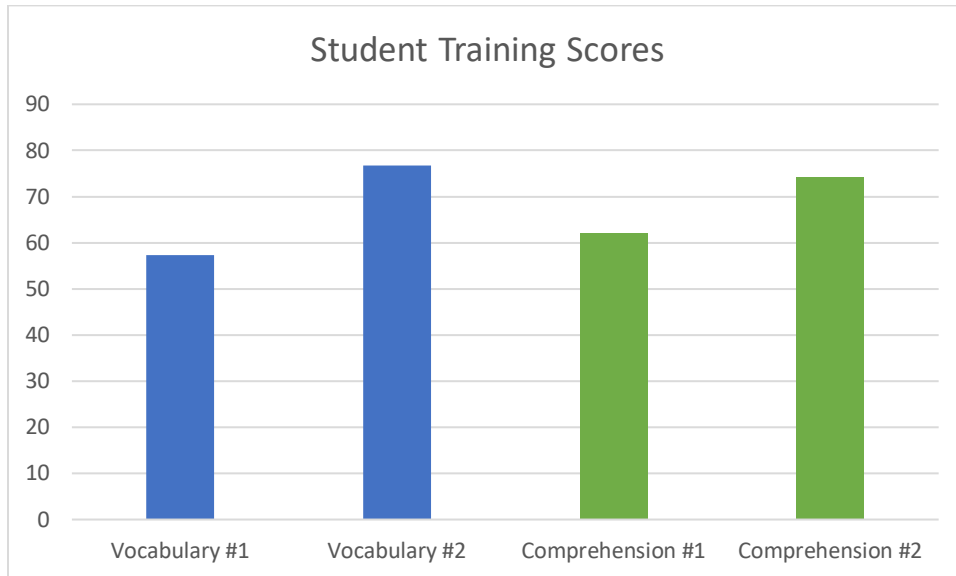
Story Completion

There was a direct correlation between number of minutes in the program and story completion. On average, students completed 1.92 stories. The adult students in the sample, who averaged five hours of usage, finished five stories on average. While the sample size for the 18 story group was small (3 students), the data indicates an acceleration trend for time to story completion with more usage in the program.



Vocabulary and Comprehension Scores

Based on the BrightFish Reading automated scoring system, average scores were calculated from 19 students who completed vocabulary exercises in the program. Eight of the students were adults and 11 were in grades 9-12 in high school.



Conclusions

High school and adult students using BrightFish Reading showed good progress in the program, completing activities and achieving growth in vocabulary and comprehension scores in the program. Based on this small data set, the following recommendations apply to high school and adult learners:

- **More program usage required for older students:** The high school students in the case study required two hours on average to complete a story. This is above the overall average of 90 minutes for all student populations using the program. This is likely due to greater reading delays and less frequent usage. High school students may need more time to complete stories and would benefit from more scheduled time in the program.
- **Story completion improves vocabulary and comprehension:** On average, students who completed two or more stories achieved increases in their scores in vocabulary and comprehension. Increasing the time in the program gives students more opportunities to work on these skill areas and improve their knowledge and confidence.

