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language & literacy

Newcomer Imagine Language & Literacy Elementary English Learners Reach Similar Performance as Peers on the WIDA ACCESS and FSA

OVERVIEW

During the 2020-2021 academic year, a school district in Florida implemented Imagine Language & Literacy with newcomer elementary school students at campuses where an ESL teacher was not present. Students were compared with other English Learners who worked directly with an assigned ESL teacher (who were not necessarily newcomers). To measure achievement and English proficiency, Imagine Learning obtained and analyzed assessment scores from two tests: the WIDA ACCESS 2.0 test (ACCESS; N = 84) and the English Language Arts (ELA) Florida Standards Assessment (FSA; N = 62). On average, program users who took ACCESS used Imagine Language & Literacy for 6 hours and passed 9 lessons. Program users who took the FSA used the program for 10 hours and passed 30 lessons. Comparison students were statistically matched for each study sample based on their grade level, ethnicity, gender, and free / reduced-lunch price status (p > .05).
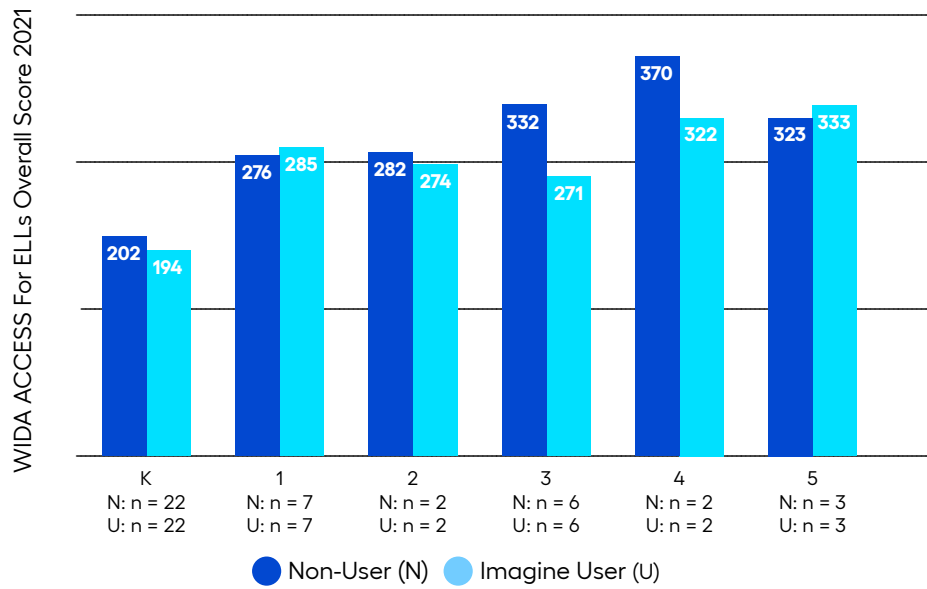
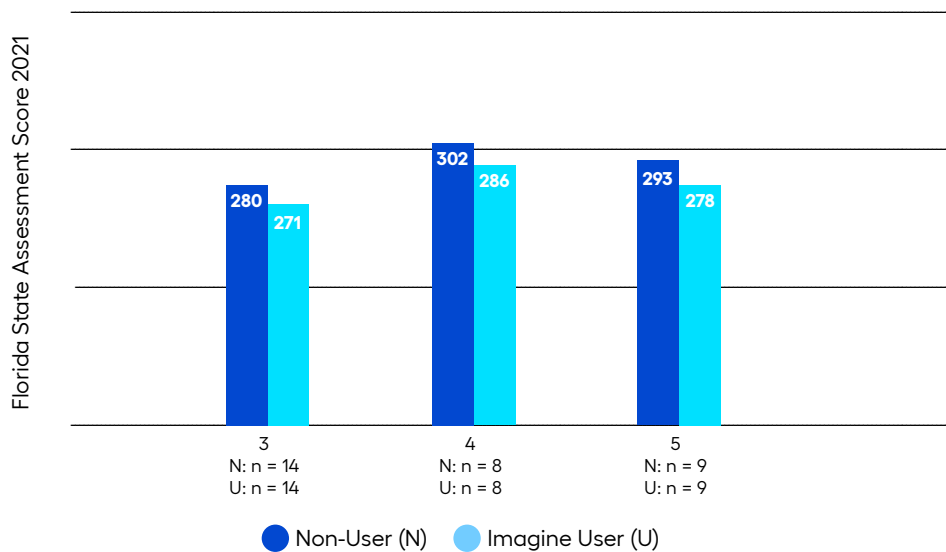| School District in Florida		
Demographics	**WIDA ACCESS 2.0 (N = 84)**	**FSA (N = 62)**
Asian	21%	18%
Black or African	6%	10%
Hispanic	62%	58%
White, non-Hispanic	11%	15%
Black	61%	66%
Male	50%	52%
Free / Reduced-Priced	52%	52%

RESULTS

Findings show that after one year of using Imagine Language & Literacy, newcomer English learners performed similarly on the ACCESS and FSA in Spring 2021 compared to similar non-newcomer peers (Figures 1 & 2). Additionally, 21% of program users were labeled English proficient on the ACCESS and 6% of program users were proficient (level 3 or above) on the FSA, despite being new English Learners without an assigned ESL teacher. Furthermore, on average, the students reaching proficiency had 1.3x the amount of program usage compared to other users. Overall, we see that Imagine Language & Literacy helped newcomer English learners without an assigned ESL teacher reach similar performance as a group of English learners with an assigned ESL teacher.

Figure 1. WIDA ACCESS 2.0 Performance, Spring 2021 Florida School District Imagine Language & Literacy Users and Non-Users Grades K–5 (N = 84)

Y-axis: WIDA ACCESS For ELLs Overall Score 2021

	K	1	2	3	4	5
Non-User (N)	202	276	282	332	370	323
Imagine User (U)	194	285	274	271	322	333

K: N: n = 22, U: n = 22
1: N: n = 7, U: n = 7
2: N: n = 2, U: n = 2
3: N: n = 6, U: n = 6
4: N: n = 2, U: n = 2
5: N: n = 3, U: n = 3

● Non-User (N)　● Imagine User (U)

Note: No statistical differences detected

Figure 2. Florida State Assessment Performance, Spring 2021 Florida School District Imagine Language & Literacy Users and Non-Users Grades 3–5 (N = 62)

Y-axis: Florida State Assessment Score 2021

	3	4	5
Non-User (N)	280	302	293
Imagine User (U)	271	286	278

3: N: n = 14, U: n = 14
4: N: n = 8, U: n = 8
5: N: n = 9, U: n = 9

● Non-User (N)　● Imagine User (U)

Note: No statistical differences detected

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