

# Literacy Footprints Guided Reading System

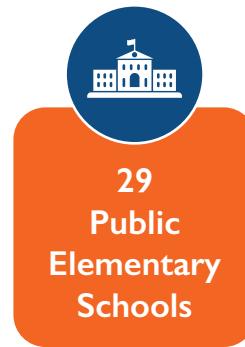
## Effects on Grade 3 English Language Arts Assessment Performance

### Why this study?

The Literacy Footprints (LFP) guided reading system, developed by Pioneer Valley Books, is a research-based, comprehensive, small-group literacy tool that facilitates explicit and systematic guided reading instruction to students in grades K-6. This study examined effects of the LFP guided reading system on grade 3 English language arts (ELA) performance on the FloridaStatewide Assessment.

### What kind of study was conducted?

A matched pair cluster randomized control trial was conducted during the 2021/22 school year with 3,071 students enrolled in 29 public elementary schools in the School District of Manatee County, a large suburban Florida school district. Schools were first matched into pairs based on student characteristics, then were randomly assigned to either the treatment group or control group.



- *Treatment Group*: The district purchased LFP kits for grade 3 teachers in 14 elementary schools that were randomly assigned. Treatment teachers also obtained access to the Digital Reader and received virtual training and follow-up support to implement materials with students.
- *Control Group*: Business-as-usual (BAU) instruction occurred at 15 schools, with participants receiving the kits in the 2022/23 school year after the study was completed.



## What was found?



Students who were enrolled in treatment schools that received the LFP guided reading system performed better on the Florida Statewide Assessment in ELA than students in the control BAU schools.



The treatment group students on average earned a 4.31-point higher ELA scale score than the control group students.



However, although the results were statistically significant, the effect size of the difference between treatment and control groups is small.



## Where to go from here?

There is promising evidence that the LFP guided reading system can help improve students' ELA standardized test scores. Further research, however, is needed to examine whether these results can be replicated across different school districts and contexts, and under more favorable conditions (e.g., without frequent COVID disruptions).



### Further Reading

For the full text of the original study, please visit: <https://www.mcrel.org/reports/>

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This infographic and corresponding study evaluate the efficacy of a commercial product, Literacy Footprints Guided Reading System, developed by Pioneer Valley Books. The authors of this paper are employed by McREL International, a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation specializing in research and evaluation services, which was contracted by Pioneer Valley Books to design and carry out the study. None of the researchers receive commission on sales of the products.