High ReadTheory Usage Leads to 15-Point Advantage in Reading Growth Scores for Top NC Districts

Introduction

This report examines the 2023–2024 state reading assessment scores from North Carolina's leading school districts and analyzes the correlation between ReadTheory usage and improved reading growth scores.
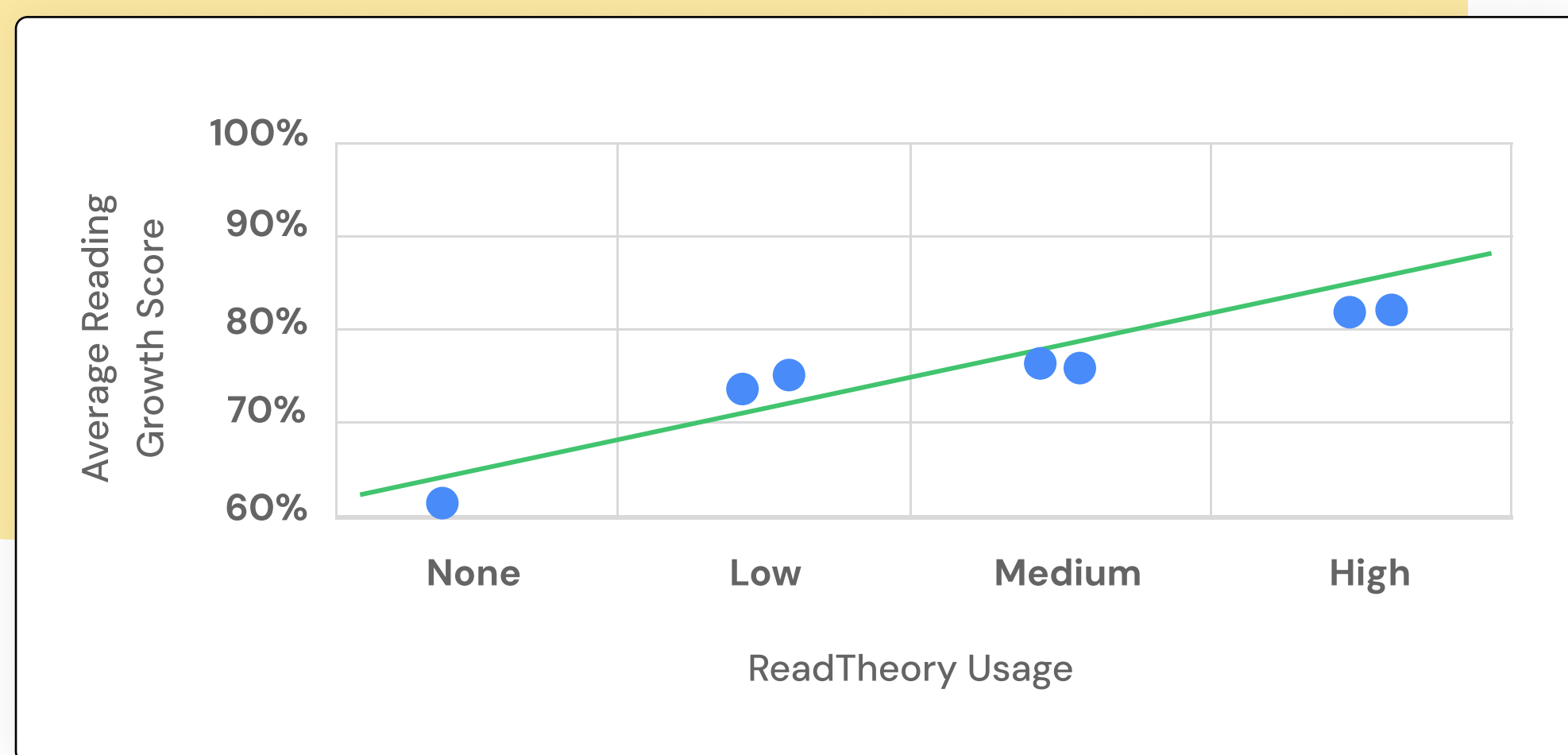
The analysis covers districts including: Wake County, Charlotte–Mecklenburg, Lincoln County, Polk County, Mooresville Graded, Yancey County, Madison County, and Camden County Schools.

It's important to acknowledge that various factors, including classroom instruction, socioeconomic conditions, and availability of resources, can also affect student reading growth. Nonetheless, this report specifically examines the role of ReadTheory usage and its relationship to reading growth scores.

Summary of Findings

The findings from this study demonstrate that districts using ReadTheory consistently see higher reading growth scores (up to 15 points higher to be exact) on state assessments. This provides compelling evidence for ReadTheory's continued adoption in schools and districts statewide.

Correlation Between ReadTheory Usage and Reading Growth Scores in NC Districts

First, what is a Reading Growth Score?

In North Carolina, the EVAAS (Education Value Added Assessment System) reading growth score is calculated by comparing a student's actual test score to their predicted score, which is based on their past performance. The growth score is used to create a reading index, which is then converted to a 100-point scale. This reading index is combined with the reading achievement score to create the overall reading score, with 80% of the score derived from achievement and 20% from growth. This balanced approach ensures that both student proficiency and improvement are reflected in the final score.

How is ReadTheory Usage Calculated?

ReadTheory usage is measured through key metrics that reflect teacher and student engagement, including the total number of active teachers and total quizzes completed by students between August 1, 2023 and June 30th, 2024. Together, these metrics are weighted and provide insights into both adoption and consistency of ReadTheory use.

Analysis of Findings

1. **High Usage, High Scores:** Districts with substantial teacher adoption (over 400 ReadTheory teachers) have achieved among the highest reading growth scores in the state (80%). Their students completed hundreds of thousands of quizzes, indicating a strong commitment to consistent practice. These districts met their reading growth targets, highlighting the impact of extensive ReadTheory usage.

2. **Small Districts, Strong Results:** Despite smaller teacher and student populations, smaller districts also met their reading growth targets with consistent ReadTheory engagement.

3. **Limited or No Usage, Lower Performance:** Districts that reported no usage of ReadTheory earned an average reading growth score of 70% with some districts' scores as low as 65%. Some districts met their reading growth goals, while others fell short. This suggests that the absence of regular engagement with ReadTheory may hinder a district's ability to achieve strong reading outcomes.

The data from the 2023-2024 school year clearly shows a strong correlation between high ReadTheory usage and positive reading growth scores. The findings indicate that districts utilizing ReadTheory consistently achieve significantly better reading growth scores—specifically 15 points higher—on state assessments.

The Link Between ReadTheory Usage and Reading Growth

ReadTheory was founded by a teacher in North Carolina who recognized the unique challenges and opportunities within the state's educational landscape. Designed specifically to align with North Carolina's End-of-Grade (EOG) assessments and state standards, it's no surprise that ReadTheory effectively supports local educational goals. By personalizing learning for every student, and providing unparalleled data and reporting, schools and districts using ReadTheory are reaping the benefits.

Rooted in the Science of Reading, ReadTheory incorporates evidence-based practices that enhance literacy instruction and foster student engagement. These foundational elements contribute to the strong correlation observed in this study, where districts utilizing ReadTheory achieved significantly higher reading growth scores.

Bring ReadTheory to your school.

Request a ReadTheory demo

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