



Benchmark Education Steps to Advance Shows Pre-Post Gains in Grades 2-5

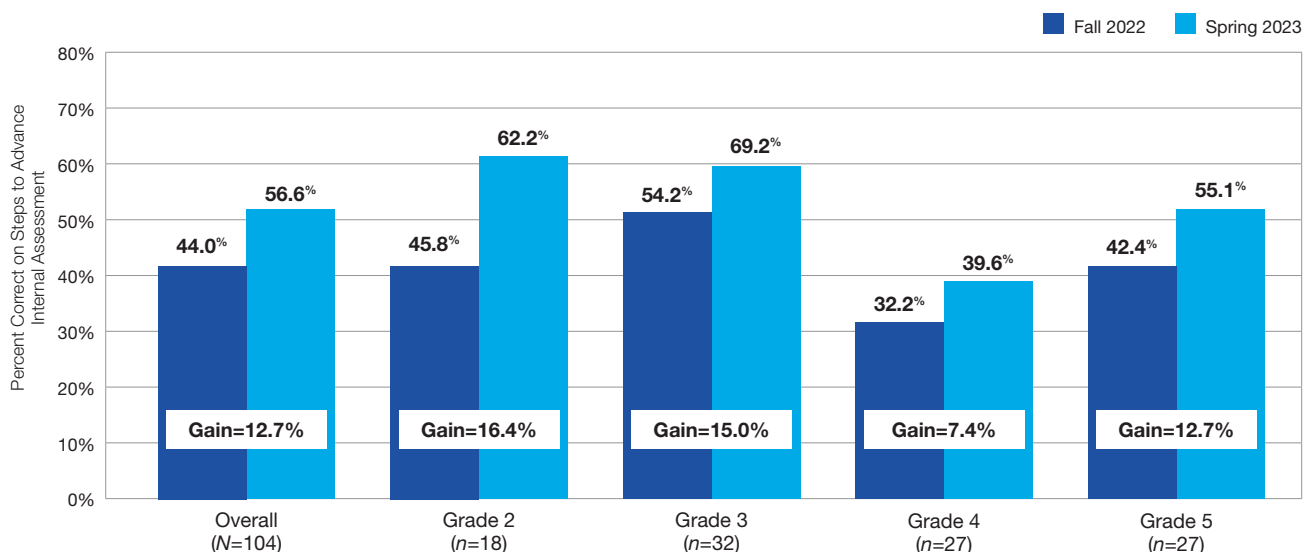
Implementation

During the 2022–2023 school year, 104 students in Grades 2–5 across three U.S. school districts participated in Benchmark Education’s *Steps to Advance* (STA) program. To evaluate the program’s impact on reading achievement, Benchmark Education Company analyzed internal pretest and posttest assessment data for students who received at least three months of STA instruction.

Impact

Students across all grade levels showed statistically significant gains in reading achievement following STA instruction, as confirmed by paired-samples t-tests ($p < .001$; see Figure 1). The most notable improvements were observed in Grades 2 and 5, with effect sizes ranging from medium to large (Cohen’s $d = 0.47$ to 0.88), indicating meaningful academic growth.

FIGURE 1. Grades 2–5 Students Demonstrate Reading Gains from Pretest to Posttest on STA Internal Assessment, Fall 2022–Spring 2023



¹Effect sizes are reported in terms of Cohen’s d . An effect size of 0.2 is considered small, 0.5 medium, and 0.8 large (Cohen, 1988). Effect sizes were as follows: Overall ($d=0.58$), Grade 2 ($d=0.55$), Grade 3 ($d=0.88$), Grade 4 ($d=0.52$), and Grade 5 $d=0.47$).