



Higher Newsela Engagement Correlates with Strong Test Performance

Annual Validity Research at Newsela



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Accountability is one of Newsela's key benefits. Our internal PhD-trained researchers partner with leading third-party vendors to conduct ongoing and rigorous research to ensure the best possible teaching and learning experience for Newsela classrooms nationally. These studies range from qualitative usability studies to causal designs aligned with federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) criteria. For a full review of all Newsela research, access our [Research & Efficacy brochure](#).

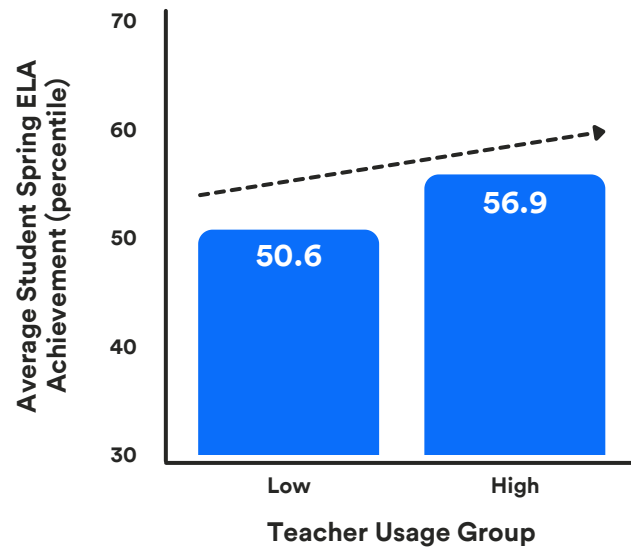
Annually, we validate Newsela's content and features against outside standardized assessment data with a growing panel currently representing over 70 school systems from over 20 states. The aim of this work is to determine how usage and performance on Newsela correlate with performance on interim (NWEA MAP Growth and i-Ready Diagnostic) and state assessments. This report summarizes highlights from this line of work.

1 Using Newsela at least twice a week is linked to stronger ELA outcomes

For both teachers and students, using Newsela more often has been linked to higher ELA achievement at the end of the year. Specifically, **teachers and students should aim to use Newsela at least 2 times a week**. Teachers should plan to print and/or assign 2 texts per week, and students should try to complete at least 1 ELA quiz per week.

This amount of usage is associated with around a **5 percentile point increase in reading performance** at the end of the year.

Students in classes with higher usage earned 6.3 percentiles more than students in classes with lower usage

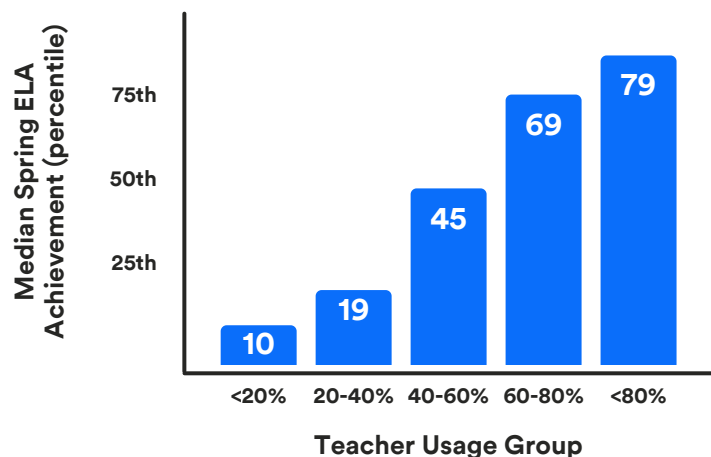


2 The higher students score on Newsela quizzes and write prompts, the higher they score on standardized ELA assessments.

Newsela's ELA **quizzes and writing prompts** give teachers helpful information about students' ELA achievement. Kids who score higher on Newsela quizzes and/or writing prompts also tend to score higher on standardized tests, meaning that teachers can **evaluate students' ELA progress quickly and easily** in the context of a larger lesson.

For example, students who averaged **80% or higher** on Newsela quizzes over the 21-22 school year reached the **80th percentile** on average on their Spring MAP Growth assessment.

Performance on Newsela quizzes is highly correlated with performance on standardized ELA assessments



3 Evidence suggests that all students benefit from Newsela, regardless of their demographic background.

Academic achievement is related to multiple different demographic factors, such as race and socio-economic status (SES) (Hegedus, 2018; Paschall, Gershoff, & Kuhfeld, 2018). Given Newsela’s culturally responsive approach to content and features, we want to ensure that Newsela use is not linked to any demographics-related differences in achievement. In reports, we found that Newsela ELA quizzes were correlated with scores regardless of race, ethnicity, and SES.

4 Improvement in Newsela quiz scores predicts school-year ELA growth

Given the correlation between Newsela ELA quiz scores and ELA outcomes at the end of the school year, we might expect that growth on Newsela quizzes across the year reflects underlying ELA growth. One report found this to be the case – students whose quiz scores increased by 10% over the school year would be expected to see about 3 percentile points of improvement on MAP Growth.

Actual change in quiz score (September - May)	Predicted change in reading performance (Fall - Spring)
0%	+0.01
+5%	+1.76
+10%	+2.95

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