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# Reading Foundations

— Early literacy instruction that —  
works for kids in Milwaukee

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**Take a moment, and think of a time you have felt deep joy through reading.**

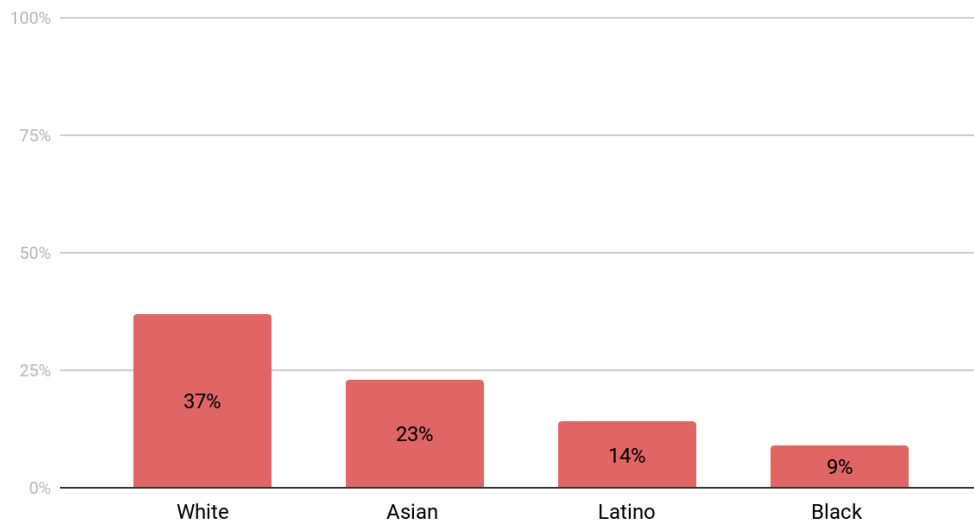
# 3rd grade reading in Milwaukee

In the 2016-17 school year,

**17%**

of 3rd graders scored proficient or higher on the Forward exam.

3rd Grade Reading Proficiency by Race/Ethnicity Group in MKE



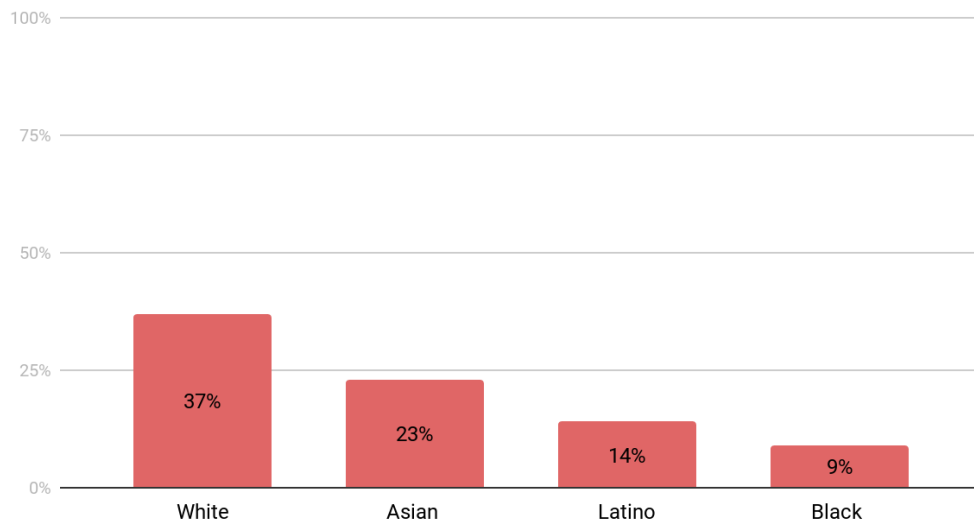
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# 3rd grade reading - why does it matter?

- A critical milestone for every student
- Reading is the foundation for all future learning
- Reading by 3rd grade puts students on the right track for the future:
  - Decreases risk of chronic absence and not completing high school.

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# What gets in the way of proficiency?



Trauma

Crime/Violence

Early  
Childhood  
Development

Mental Health

Physical Health

Homelessness/  
Eviction

Unemployed  
Parents

Poverty

Foster Care

# The Reading Foundations Model

- 2014 in 2 schools, 2017-18 in 21 choice, charter and public schools

K-2 teachers are trained and coached in best practices for teaching foundational reading skills

These tools for instruction meet students where they are at

Students who are “below target” move to being “on target”



An evaluation was done on the the MPS portion of schools by Rachel Lander,  
Associate Scientist from the School of Education at UW-Milwaukee.

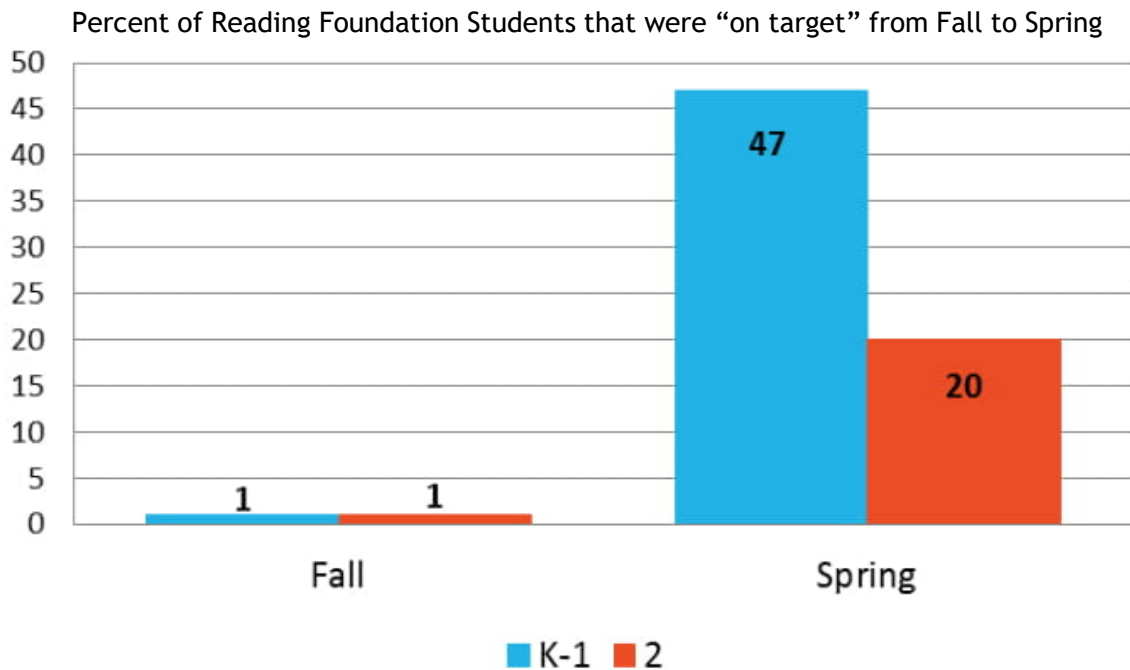
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Reading Foundations students **performed significantly better** on the STAR than similar students who did not have Reading Foundations instruction.



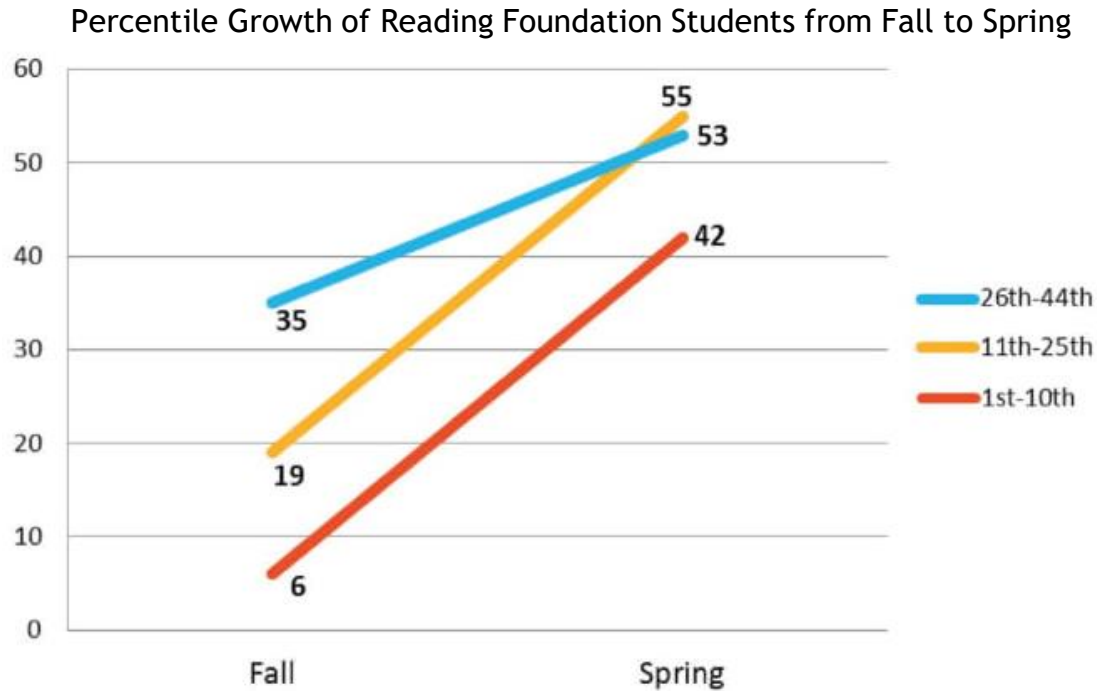
# 2

## Many RF students moved to being “on target”



# 3

All percentile groups grew from fall to spring.



4

Reading Foundations students who received the intended number of sessions **performed better** on the STAR exam than RF students who received fewer than the intended number of sessions.

# Conclusion

- Students in Reading Foundations performed better than students who were not
- Building teacher capacity makes a difference for kids

# Thank you!



To learn more about Reading Foundations and download the full evaluation, visit: <https://milwaukeesucceeds.org/data/publications>