

Speak Agent + KIPP Endeavor Academy

PROBLEM

- Because many students are reading below grade level, they disengage from class and do not exhibit a growth mindset regarding reading, which leads to a cycle of disengagement and low performance.

RESEARCH GOALS

1. Assess the impact of Speak Agent on reading outcomes.
2. Assess the impact of Speak Agent on student engagement.

METHODOLOGY

- Student pre- and post-surveys
- Teacher and student interviews
- Student classroom observations
- Student pre- and post- learning assessments

Speak Agent

Speak Agent is a breakthrough digital platform that empowers diverse learners of all ages to quickly and deeply master challenging academic language and concepts critical for success in schools and careers.

Fellows: Ben Grimley and Dan LaFountain

KIPP Endeavor Academy

Kansas City, MO

Urban middle-school charter

Pilot Demographics

N=13

7th grade

100% Black

100% Free & Reduced Lunch Eligible

Pilot School Partner

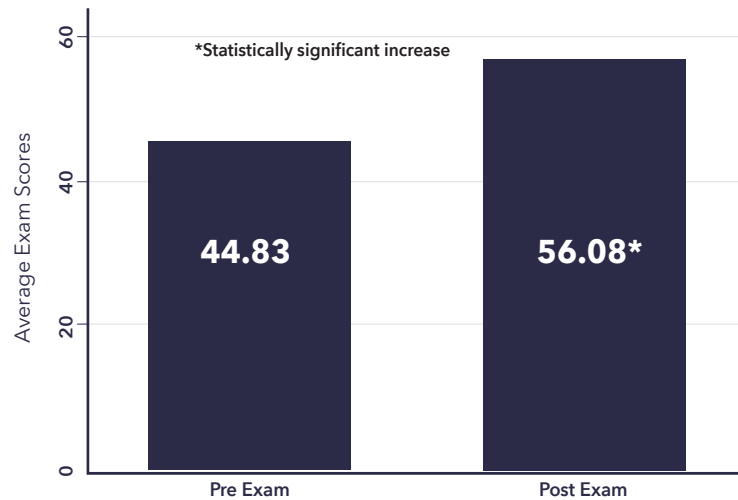
Skylar Hurst, 7th grade English teacher

RESULTS

READING OUTCOMES

Students took a pre- and post- 7th grade, standardized reading assessment and the class, on average, experienced a 27% statistically significant growth (figure below).

Changes in Class-Average Exam Scores



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Students took a pre- and post-survey centered on social-emotional competencies in engagement, confidence, and growth mindset. There were three components where there was a statistically significant increase in the class-average response: how much students like reading, how good at reading they think they are, and how confident they are that they can master topics in their class (figure below). There was not a statistically significant increase among any of the other growth mindset indicators.

Changes in Class-Average Engagement & Confidence Indicators



Teacher Feedback

- "I appreciate that it lines up with what we are doing in class."
- "It is allowing students to engage in various ways including active listening and read along."
- "I am surprised by how much they enjoy the activities where they record themselves and read out loud. They enjoy hearing themselves."
- "The quick feedback makes them feel successful."

Student Feedback

- "It teaches you what the words are. It challenges you to want to do more."
- "The voice application allows you to learn how to pronounce words."
- "It's challenging, but it's fun."
- "It helps me understand the definitions of words."

PRODUCT MODIFICATIONS

Speak Agent is working to build a teacher dashboard for teachers to be able to track student progress and outcomes on modules and activities within the app.