



2013-2014 Benchmark 1-3 Comparison Summary of Results

Students of the Youth Learning Center's Resources for Learning (RFL) Afterschool Program utilize the online tool, Study Island, to review and learn communication arts and mathematics concepts according to Missouri State Grade level Expectations (GLEs). Three times during the academic year, YLC administers the Study Island benchmark tests in math and in reading in order to gauge students' proficiency in relation to the GLEs, and to develop a guide by which YLC staff members may better address identified academic needs.

The following compares the Benchmark 3 (BM3) results from May 2014 to the first benchmark tests (BM1) taken during the 2013 fall semester. Results are considered only for students who took both BM1 and BM3 tests (n=46).

Benchmark Score Highlights

- 1) Of the 46 students, 43 (93%) experienced an increase in math and/or in communication arts scores by the end of the school year.
- 2) Of the total number of students, 25 (54%) experienced an increase in both math and communication arts.
- 3) The percentage of students who have reached proficiency or higher in math has quadrupled (from 9% to 37%).
- 4) The percentage of students who have reached proficiency or higher in communication arts increased from 43% to 70%.
- 5) On average, YLC students increased their math grade performance level from "Below Basic" to "Basic."
- 6) On average, YLC students increased their communication arts grade performance level from "Basic" to "Proficient."
- 7) 78% of students increased their math scores from BM1 to BM3, demonstrating an average score increase of 13.6 percentage points (statistically significant at the 95% confidence interval).
- 8) 70% of students increased their communication arts scores from BM1 to BM3, showing an average score increase of 11.3 percentage points (statistically significant at the 95% confidence interval).
- 9) 67% of students with a baseline grade of Below Basic or Basic in either testing area increased their grade by at least one performance level – **YLC Outcome Objective met (YLC target was 60%)**.
 - a. 48% of students increased by at least one performance level in math, and 37% of students increased by at least one performance level in communication arts
- 10) 89% of the students achieved their individualized goal to increase their baseline score in math and/or in communication arts according to a predetermined sliding scale – **YLC Outcome Objective met (YLC target was 70%)**

1st – 2nd Grade Math Assessments w/ Moby Max

- 1) A total of 10 students in 1st – 2nd grade completed beginning of the year and end of year assessments in math using the online program Moby Max, a dynamic assessment that provides the grade level at which students test.
- 2) 100% of the students experienced a score increase from their first test to the end of year test.
- 3) On average, 1st graders improved their math achievement by a full grade level (from early 1st grade to early 2nd grade level)
- 4) On average, the 2nd graders improved their math achievement by 1.5 full grade levels.
- 5) 80% of the students finished the year at or above grade level in math.

1st – 4th Grade Reading Assessments

- 1) Of the total 1st-4th grade students identified as struggling readers who completed beginning of the year and end of year reading assessments, 13 (93%) have improved reading comprehension and fluency by at least one guided reading level.
- 2) Of the total 14 students who started the school year below grade level, 6 (43%) ended the year reading at or above grade level.

Positive Youth Development

YLC uses the Colorado Trust *After School Initiative's Toolkit for Evaluating Positive Youth Development*, a published research-based tool designed to use self-reporting to measure several positive youth development outcomes within several domains. About 60% (31) of eligible students (3rd – 8th graders) completed the survey. According to self-report information, as a result of the RFL program, students in the RFL program attained core positive youth development indicators within the domains of positive life choices, life skills, and sense of self:

- 77% reported that YLC helped them to stay away from violence/fighting (positive life choices)
- 74% of students reported being better problem solvers (life skills)
- 75% of students reporting an improvement in listening skills (life skills)
- 73% reported that the RFL program helped them to be more of a leader (life skills)
- 73% feel better about their future (sense of self)
- 76% reported increased self-confidence (sense of self)

Additionally:

- 77% of respondents reported that they learned new things at YLC this past academic year.
- 83% reported that YLC tutoring helped them increase their academic achievement .
- 48% reported being more interested in math as a result of participating in the RFL program this year.
- 100% of surveyed students believe that YLC staff members have high expectations for them.
- 84% of the students reported that they believed that YLC staff members care about them.
- 77% of students reported that they made new friends this year in the RFL program.

Parent Feedback

A total of 21 parents (representing about 40% of YLC families) completed a YLC end of school year survey. The following was discovered:

- 85% of parents agree or strongly agree that their children demonstrated academic improvements as a result of participating in the RFL program this academic year.
- 100% of parents reported that their children were introduced to novel experiences in the RFL program.
- 50% of parents believe that the RFL program helped to increase their children's interest in math and 75% believe their children's interest in technology increased.
- 100% of parents believe that their children's future is positively impacted by participation in the RFL program.