

JOURNEYS

Meets ESSA "STRONG" Evidence Criteria

The **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** promotes evidence-based education programs by ensuring that programs are proven to be effective in increasing student achievement. ESSA includes four levels of evidence: strong, moderate, promising, and evidence that demonstrates a rationale. The ratings of the ESSA level of evidence reflect the quality, rigor, and statistical significance of the research study design and findings of the study.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt *Journeys* is a comprehensive K–6 English language arts program. It provides an instructional system for reading both literature and informational texts, for acquiring foundational skills, and for developing mastery of speaking, listening, and writing.



STUDY LOCATION: Six schools from four geographic regions in the US: Washington, D.C., Rhode Island, Arizona, and Louisiana
STUDY YEAR: 2011–2013
STUDY CONDUCTED BY: PRES Associates

EVIDENCE CRITERIA

Well-designed & well-implemented experimental study or Randomized Control Trial (RCT)

STUDY EVIDENCE & HIGHLIGHTS

An experimental RCT study, where intervention teachers implemented *Journeys* for two school years. Results were analyzed using multilevel modeling to compare student academic growth over two years.

Teachers at Grades K–3 were randomly assigned to use either Houghton Mifflin Harcourt *Journeys* (treatment group) or their existing curriculum (control group) for the span of two academic years. During the two years, over 85% of treatment teachers implemented the program as prescribed in the implementation guidelines using the specific daily routines, which included regular whole-group and small-group activities.

Large & multi-site sample

The sample consisted of six different schools, from both urban and suburban districts, that were both economically and racially diverse.

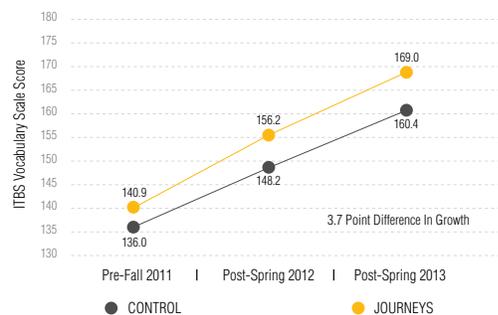
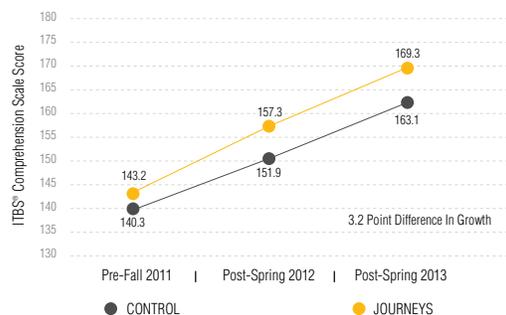
ANALYTIC SAMPLE:

- Suburban and urban schools
- 6 schools
- Grades K–3
- 308 participating students

- 23% African American; 28% Hispanic; 40% White; 9% Other
- 19% Limited English Proficiency
- 7% Students with Disabilities
- 50% Free/reduced-price meals

Shows statistically significant & positive effects

The results of multilevel modeling indicated that students using HMH *Journeys* over two school years witnessed significantly greater growth in reading comprehension and vocabulary achievement, as measured by the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills®, when compared to students in the control group.



To learn more about the research behind *Journeys*, visit hmhco.com/journeys

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