

# How Schools Tripled their First Semester Reading Gains with Classworks

*From Fall 2020 to Winter 2021, students using Classworks showed significant gains in reading when compared to their peers who did not use Classworks during the same period.*

## Summary

After a whirlwind year of school closures, relocations, and remote learning, districts have overcome serious obstacles to ensure that students' learning needs would continue to be met, no matter the environment. At the onset of the pandemic, many educators were quick to point out focus areas where learning loss was expected to be most severe.

With students missing out on the face-to-face reading practice they normally receive, literacy became top-of-mind for most districts -- especially with research suggesting that students returning to school will have lost 30% of the reading gains they made in the previous year.<sup>1</sup>

To combat the literacy loss associated with school closures, districts across the country turned to innovative technology to slow the slide. And, with the help of Classworks, students have been able to show significant growth during the Fall to Winter period.

## What We Know About COVID Learning Loss

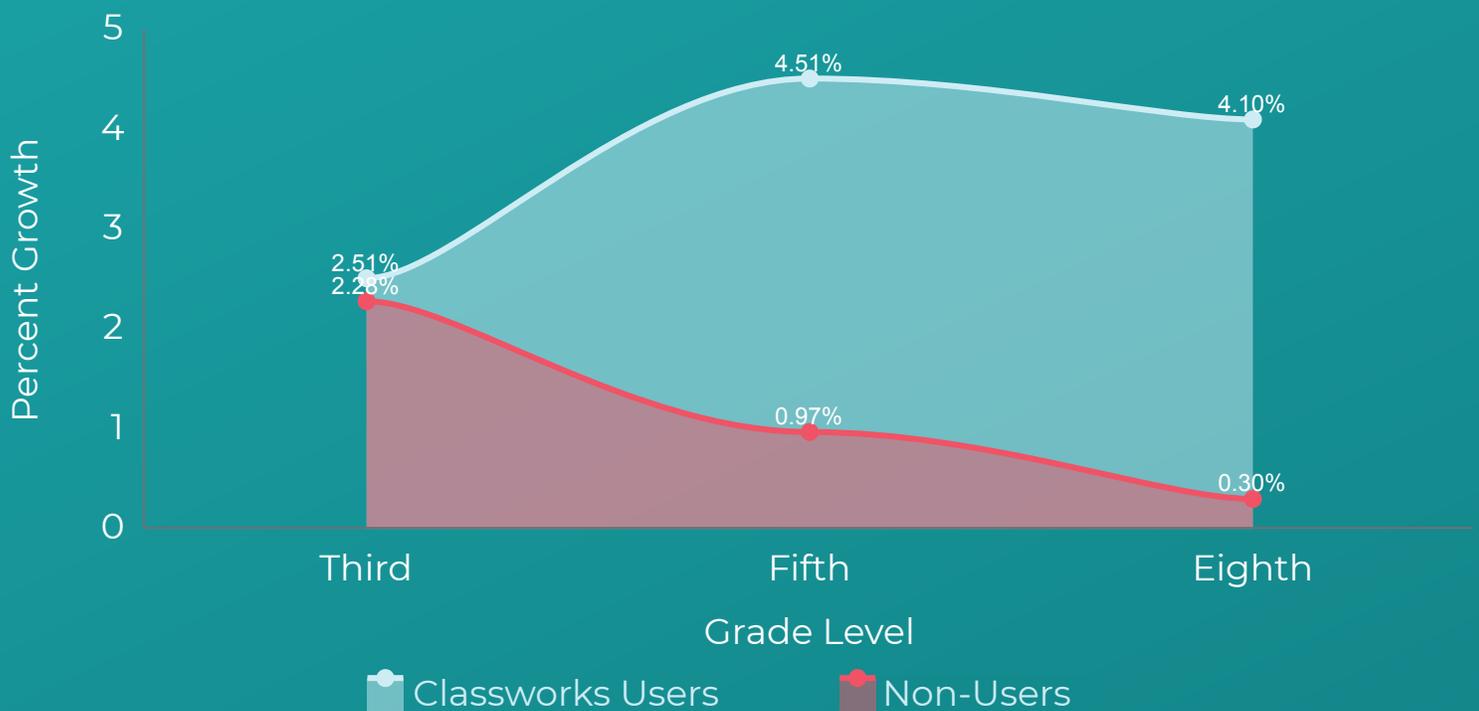
When students were sent home, our assessment partners used data collected about Summer Learning Loss to project how the COVID Slide would impact districts across the country.

Data from both NWEA and Renaissance suggest that the number of students in MTSS risk categories, as well as the number of students performing below assessment benchmarks, have increased substantially from 2019 to Fall 2020.<sup>2</sup>



## A Formula for Growth

Classworks provides individualized instruction on heavily-weighted skills using students' diagnostic assessment data. By pairing the individualized literacy lessons with whole-group close reading activities, teachers using Classworks were able to close learning gaps, build reading stamina, and improve deep reading comprehension while teaching virtually and in hybrid learning environments.



## The Results

From Fall 2020 to Winter 2021, students using Classworks showed significant gains in reading when compared to their peers who did not use Classworks during the same period. The study, which analyzes results on the Universal Screener Reading assessment, shows students in key promotion grades achieving an average of 3.71% growth between testing windows, more than three times greater than the growth achieved by students who did not use Classworks.

Of those using Classworks, students in grade 3 experienced 2.51% growth, while students in grades 5 and 8 experienced 4.51% growth and 4.10% growth respectively.

<sup>1</sup> Kuhfeld, M., & Tarasawa, B. (2020). The COVID-19 slide: What summer learning loss can tell us about the potential impact of school closures on student academic achievement. NWEA. [https://www.nwea.org/content/uploads/2020/05/Collaborative-Brief\\_Covid19-Slide-APR20.pdf](https://www.nwea.org/content/uploads/2020/05/Collaborative-Brief_Covid19-Slide-APR20.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> (2020). How Kids Are Performing: Tracking the Impact of COVID-19 on Reading and Mathematics Achievement. <https://renaissance.widen.net/s/wmjtlxkxhbm>