

## 6.8 Months of Literacy Growth in Nonsense Word Fluency

In 2023, Springboard Collaborative partnered with Chicago Public Schools (“CPS”) for their summer literacy initiatives. Chicago Public Schools serves more than **300,000** students in over **630** schools. Of this diverse student population, **70.7%** of students are economically disadvantaged.

### Challenge

CPS launched *Together We Rise* to address the following challenges.

- Improve educational programs for Black students
- 65% of all 2nd-grade students reading at or above grade level
- Implement a community engagement framework

### Using Summer to Improve Reading Skills

To achieve their goals, CPS partnered with Springboard Collaborative in the summer of 2023 to pilot a **5-week** literacy program using Springboard’s summer playbook.

The pilot was implemented across **15** public schools and served **~ 400** pre-K through 4th-grade students.

“By the end of the program, over 31,000 books were read at home and 90% of parents attended the weekly parent workshops. To say this program was remarkable is an understatement.”

Serena Klosa

Deputy Chief of ISP Schools, CPS

### Outcomes

Teachers measured students’ reading progress after the **5-week** program using the DIBELS reading assessment\* to measure growth in reading fluency.

- 193 Kindergarten through third-grade students tested on **Nonsense Word Fluency** reported an average reading achievement equivalent to **6.8 months of reading growth in letter-sound knowledge and blending**.
- 14 fourth grade and above students tested on **Oral Reading Fluency** reported an average reading achievement equivalent to **2.0 months of reading growth in fluency of reading connected text**.
- 107 students who were tested on a grade level other than their chronological grade of **Nonsense Word Fluency** reported an average reading achievement equivalent to **7.5 months of reading growth in letter-sound knowledge and blending**.

\*Note: Amplify (the DIBELS assessment provider) recommends that students should be tested on grade level to confidently report on months of reading growth. Our results are for students who were tested off grade level.

### Chicago Public Schools By the Numbers

- **634** Schools
- **323,251** Total students
- **221,303** PreK – 8th
- **70.7%** Economically disadvantaged
- **83%** BIPOC community
- **74%** Reading below grade level

