dreambox MATH By Discovery Education

RESEARCH BRIEF

INSTRUCTURE LEVEL 3 ESSA 2025

DreamBox Math Drives Higher Achievement for K-5 Students in Large California District

Data shows that DreamBox Math usage has a positive impact on mid- and end-of-year assessments across grades, demographics, SED, and ELL status.

KEY FINDINGS:

Students who used DreamBox Math at either moderate or high frequency both had significantly higher assessment scores than those with low usage.

GRADES K-2

+10 points

Higher on NWEA

GRADES 3-5

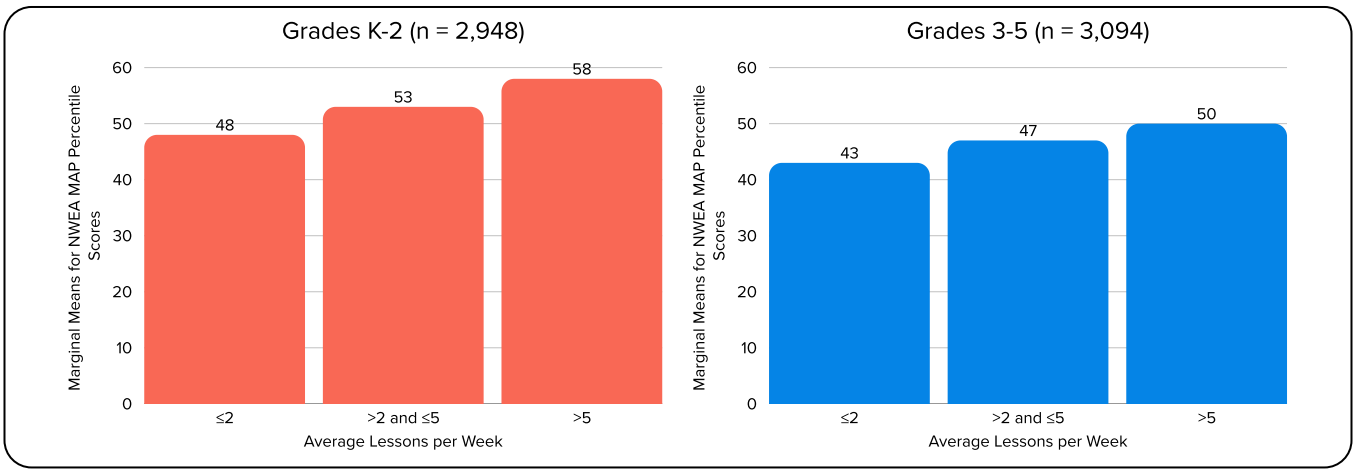
+7 points

Higher on NWEA

+16 points

Higher on SBAC

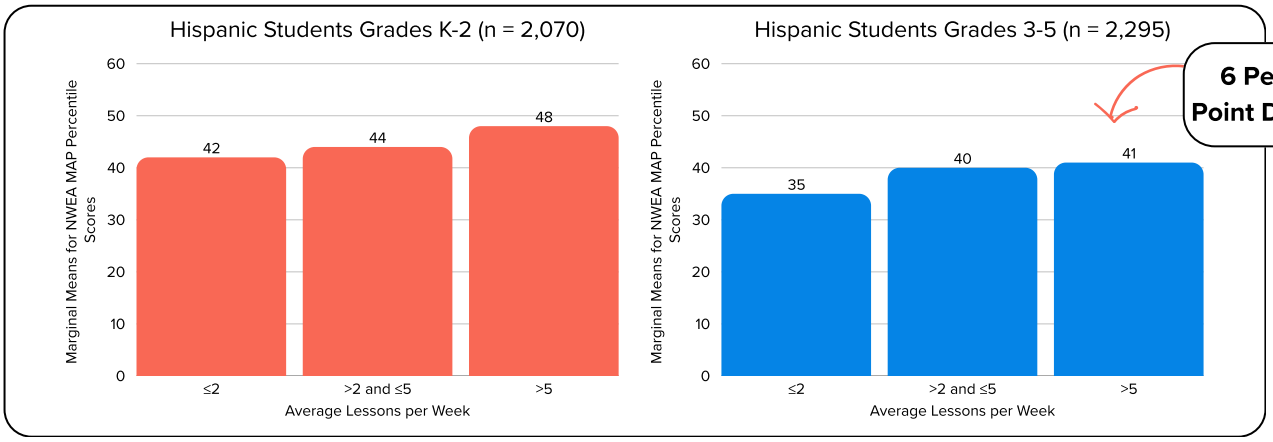
Students who completed **as few as two DreamBox Math lessons per week scored significantly higher (4 points)** on assessments than peers with lower usage. Data shows **impact growing even more (7-10 points) at higher usage levels**.



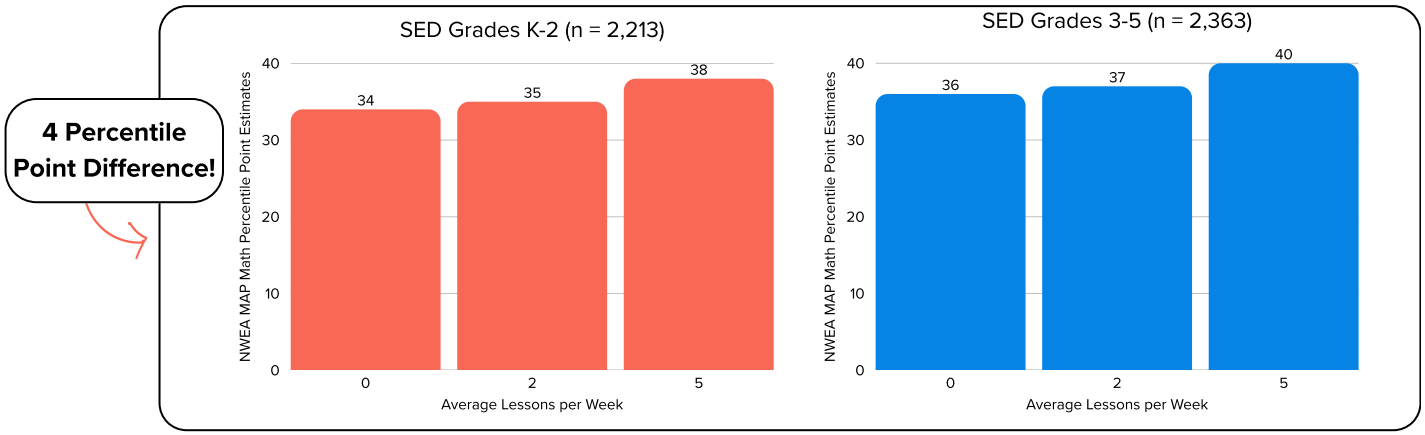
These results are statistically significant at the p< .05 level.

This Impact Was Consistent across Student Groups

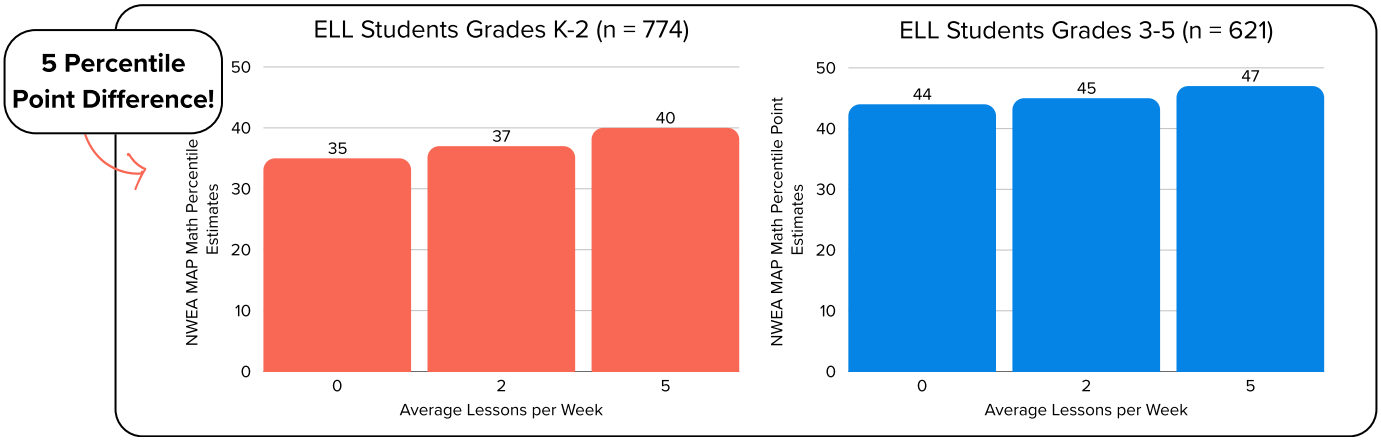
Hispanic students in grades K-5 scored **six percentile points higher** on NWEA.



Among K-5 Students with Economic Disadvantages (SED), the number of **completed lessons in DreamBox Math was positively associated** with NWEA MAP percentile scores.



Among K-5 ELL students, the number of **completed lessons in DreamBox Math was positively associated** with NWEA MAP percentile scores.



Study Background

Understanding the Study:

- This study examined the relationship between DreamBox Math usage and student math achievement for 8,393 K–8 students in a large CA district.
- Students were grouped by how many DreamBox lessons they completed per week:
  - Low (≤ 2 lessons)
  - Moderate (2–5)
  - High (> 5)
- Performance was compared on standardized assessments like NWEA MAP® and the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC).
- The analysis focused on group-level trends, showing how average achievement differed across usage groups. On average, students in the Moderate and High usage groups scored higher than those with Low usage.
- Researchers used statistical models that controlled for prior achievement, demographics, and school-level factors to better isolate the relationship between DreamBox usage and outcomes.
- Because the study is correlational, it identifies strong, statistically significant associations rather than individual-level causal effects — but the patterns are consistent across grades and subgroups.
- The SBAC result reflects changes in raw scale scores, whereas the NWEA results reflect changes in percentile rank. Because they're on different scales, the SBAC number may appear larger even though it's not directly comparable. The full report includes details on how those scores were calculated and interpreted.

Want to go deeper? Dive into the complete study here.

Explore DreamBox Math Efficacy Across the Nation!