

# Beating the Odds: Bright Spots Where Smart Implementation Drives Student Success

February 17, 2026



# Panelists



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Co-Director  
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Research Network

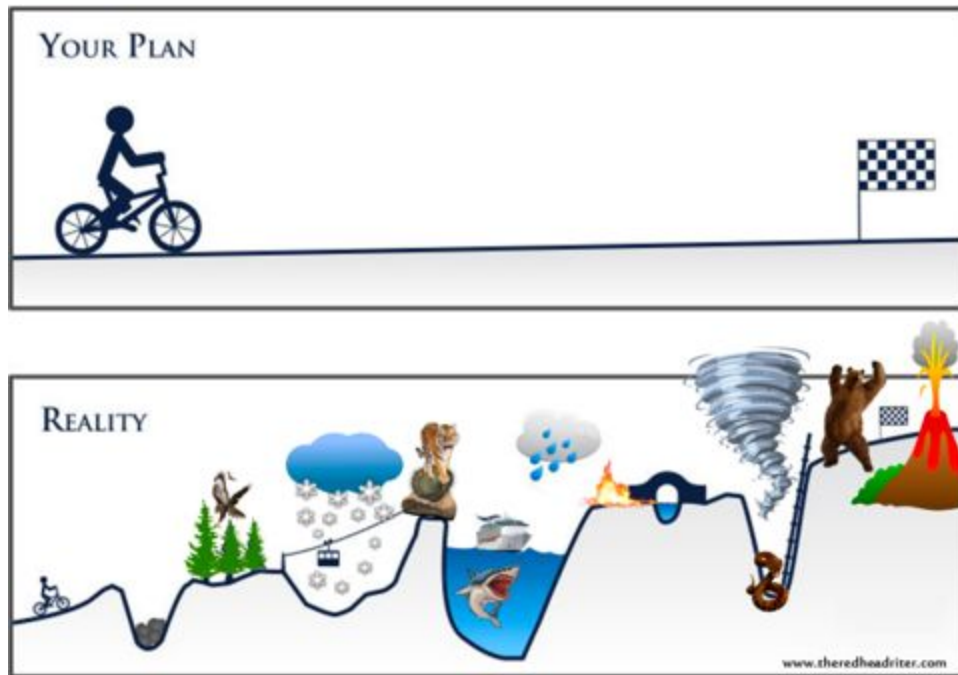


**Alicia Sanborn**  
Director, Early Literacy and  
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Washington Unified School  
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**Raymond C. Hart, Ph.D.**  
Executive Director  
Council of the Great City Schools

# Implementation



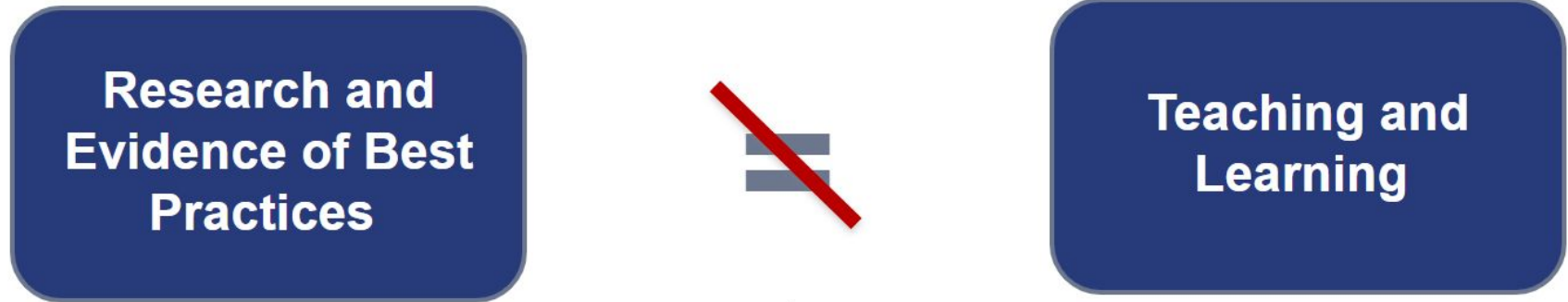
Implementation science refers to the “methods or techniques used to enhance the adoption, implementation, and sustainability” of an intervention.

(Powell et al., 2015)

**Implement = Use**



# Why: Science to Service Gap



1. **What is adopted is not used with fidelity**
2. **What is used with fidelity is not sustained**
3. **What is used with fidelity is not used to scale**



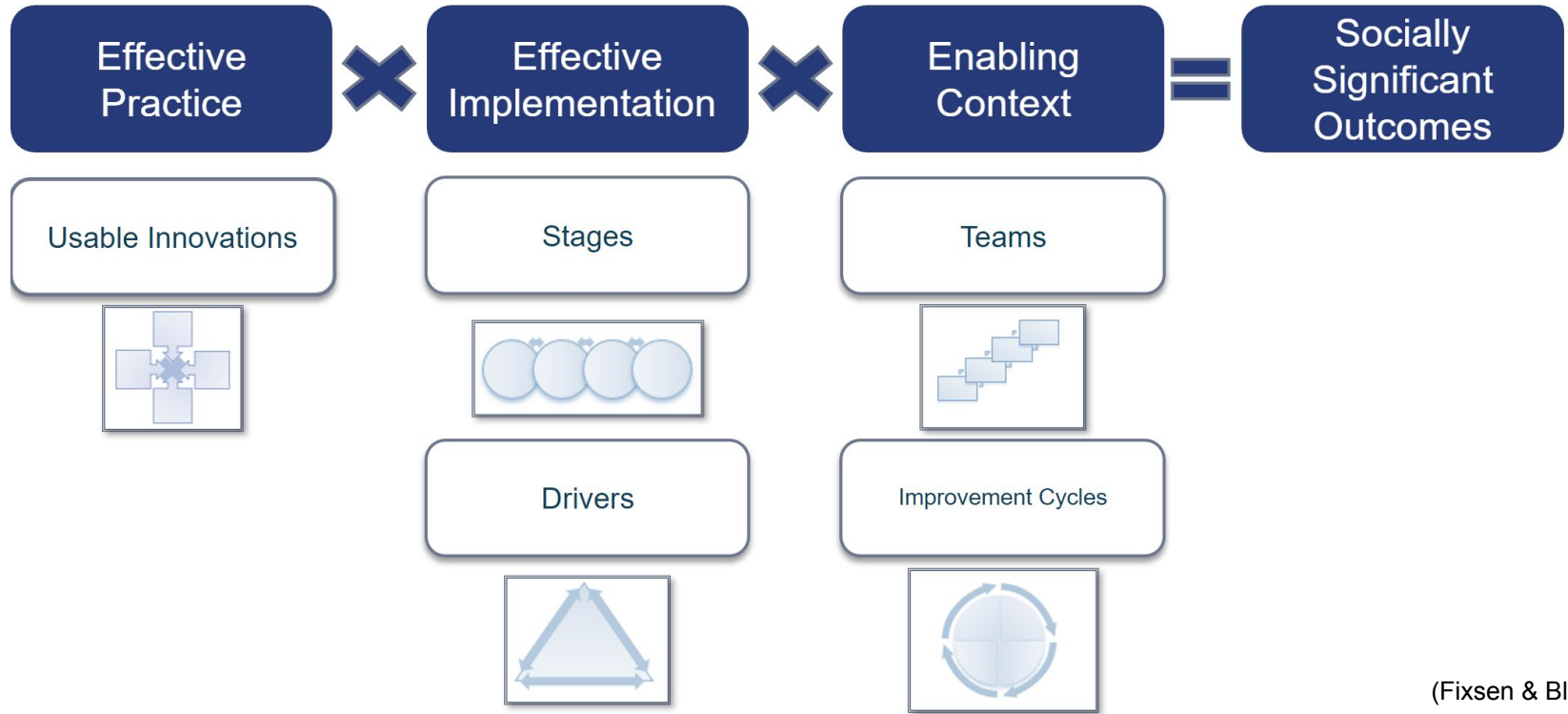
# Active Implementation - NIRN's Approach



(Fixsen & Blase, 2020)



# Active Implementation Frameworks

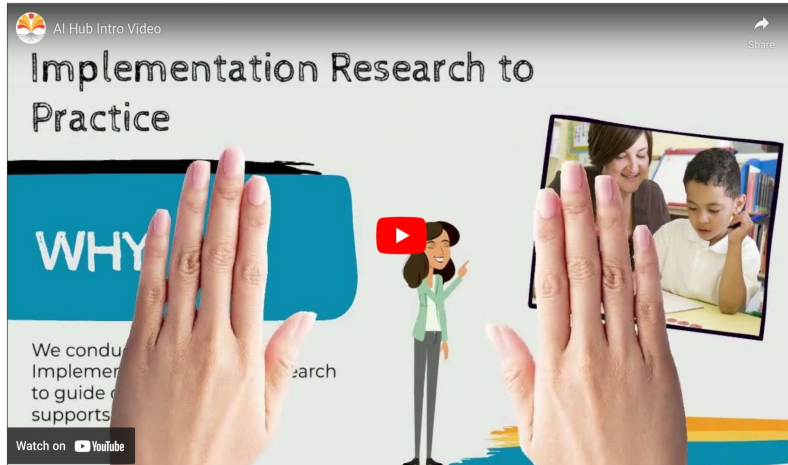


(Fixsen & Blase, 2020)



# Resources

- Active Implementation Hub:  
<https://implementation.fpg.unc.edu>



The Active Implementation Hub is a free, online learning environment for use by any interested party — practitioners, educators, coaches, trainers, purveyors — involved in the active implementation and scaling up of programs and innovations. The site goal is to increase the knowledge and improve the performance of persons engaged in actively implementing any program or practice.



Visit NIRN



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<https://nirn.fpg.unc.edu/>

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# Washington Unified School District

Central California | Spans Farmland, Rural & Urban areas

*Newly Unified District 2011*



Students



Socioeconomically Disadvantaged



Hispanic



English Learner



# Washington Unified School District

## Results

### Implementation Integrity



82%

average student attendance

96%

tutoring fidelity

77%

of students exceeding target growth rate  
READING

40%

benchmark average  
MATH

401

students receiving tutoring

61

avg. min. of tutoring each week

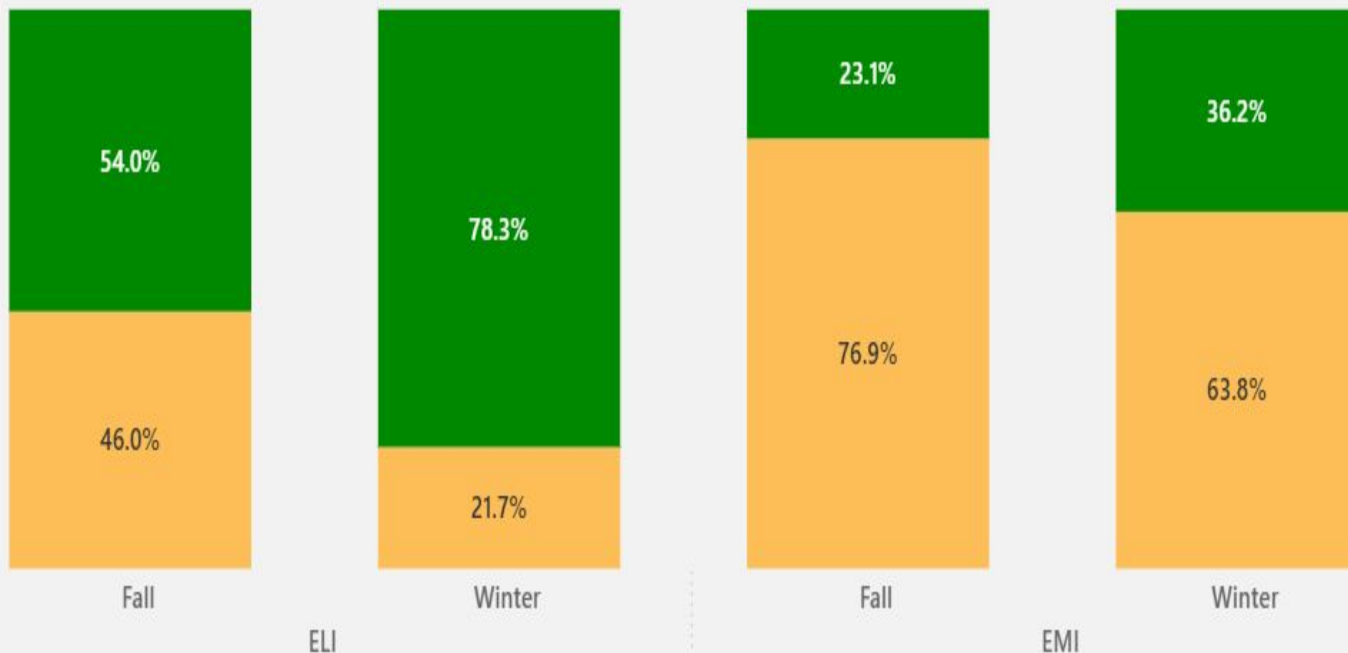
### 2025-2006 Student Outcomes



# Washington U: Early Learning Corps 2025-26

Student benchmark scores by season and proficiency band (PELI up to 2024-25, ELI from 2025-26)

Below target On or above target

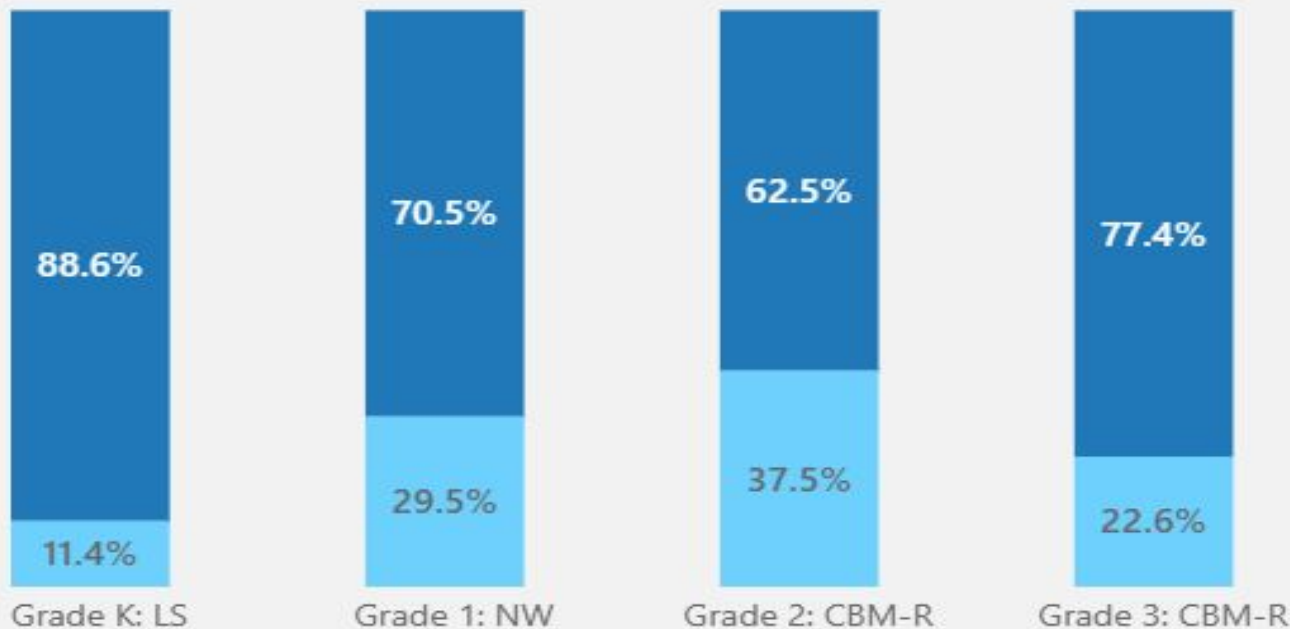


Growth is measured using the ELI (Early Literacy Inventory) and EMI (Early Math Inventory).

# Washington U: Reading Corps 2025-26

## Student progress monitoring growth by grade and assessment\*

● % Not Exceeding Target Growth ● % Exceeding Target Growth



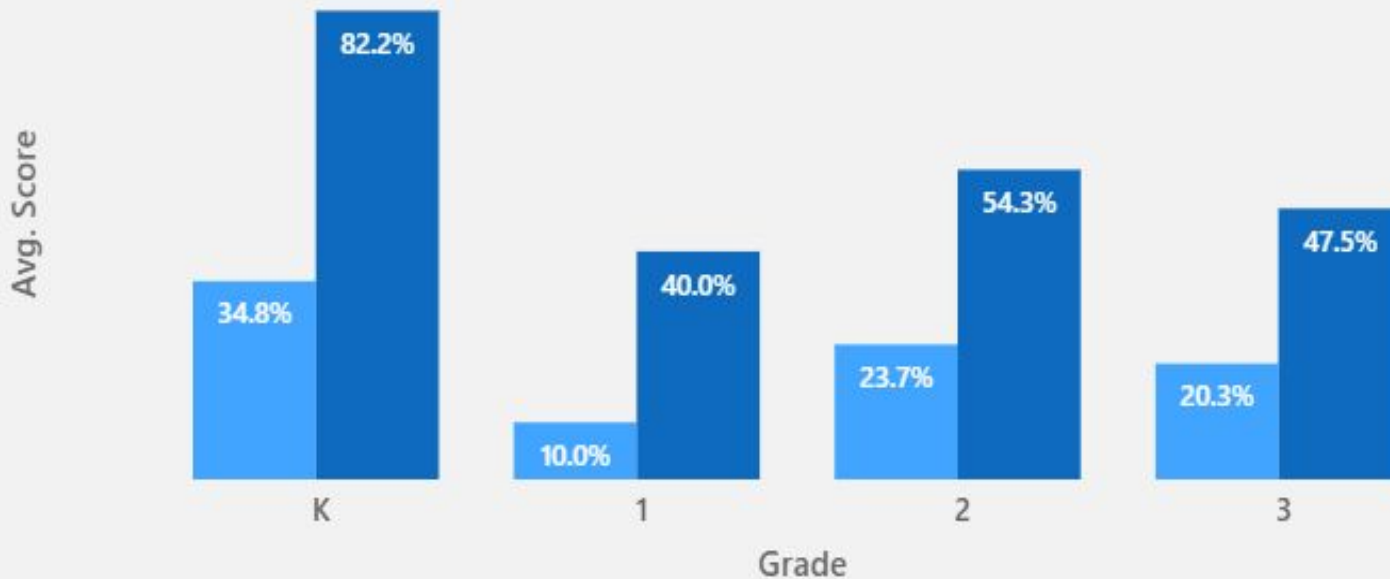
**95.5% of students are demonstrating growth** in grade level literacy skills.

**75.4% of students are exceeding target growth** and are making necessary gains to reach grade level.

# Washington U: K-3 Math Corps 2025-26

## Benchmark Assessment Average First & Last Scores (% correct) by Grade

● Avg. First Score (%) ● Avg. Last Score (%)



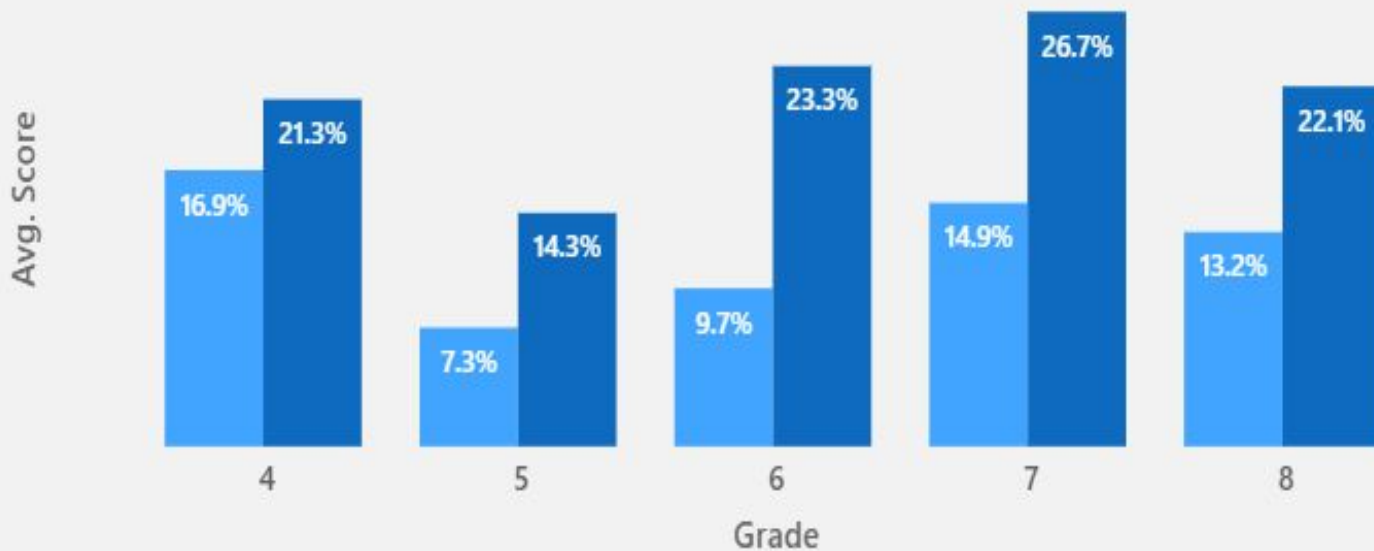
**93% of students improving** on benchmark assessment.

**67% of students improving by 20% or more** on benchmark assessment, doubling their probability of meeting grade level targets by spring benchmark.

# Washington U: 4-8 Math Corps 2025-26

## Benchmark Assessment Average First & Last Scores (% correct) by Grade

● Avg. First Score (%) ● Avg. Last Score (%)



**70.2% of students improving** on benchmark assessment.

**19% of students improving by 20% or more** on benchmark assessment, doubling their probability of meeting grade level targets by spring benchmark.

# Upcoming GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinars:

## GLR LEARNING TUESDAYS - EMERGING MODELS

Children's Savings Accounts & Emerging Federal Policy: Opportunities & Implications  
Tuesday, February 24, 3:00–4:30 p.m. ET/12:00-1:130 p.m. PT

## GLR LEARNING TUESDAYS - LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY CHALLENGE

More Than an Accessibility Feature: Same Language Subtitling (SLS), Learning, and Literacy  
Tuesday, March 3, 13:00–4:30 p.m. ET/12:00-1:130 p.m. PT

## CRUCIBLE OF PRACTICE

Building Public Will for Literacy by Igniting Parent and Family Engagement  
Tuesday, March 10, 2:30–2 p.m. ET/9:30 a.m.–12 p.m. PT

## GLR LEARNING TUESDAYS - LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY CHALLENGE

Parents as Essential Partners: Beating the Odds and Reducing Chronic Absenteeism  
Tuesday, March 10, 3:00–4:30 p.m. ET/12:00-1:130 p.m. PT

Join us!

