

2024

# Texas Efficacy Research

Reading Growth  
On The Texas STAAR  
Summative Assessment

Teas Students  
Reading  
Frequently with  
Amira



Teas Students  
Who Did Not  
Read with Amira

# Evidence from Texas



## Abstract

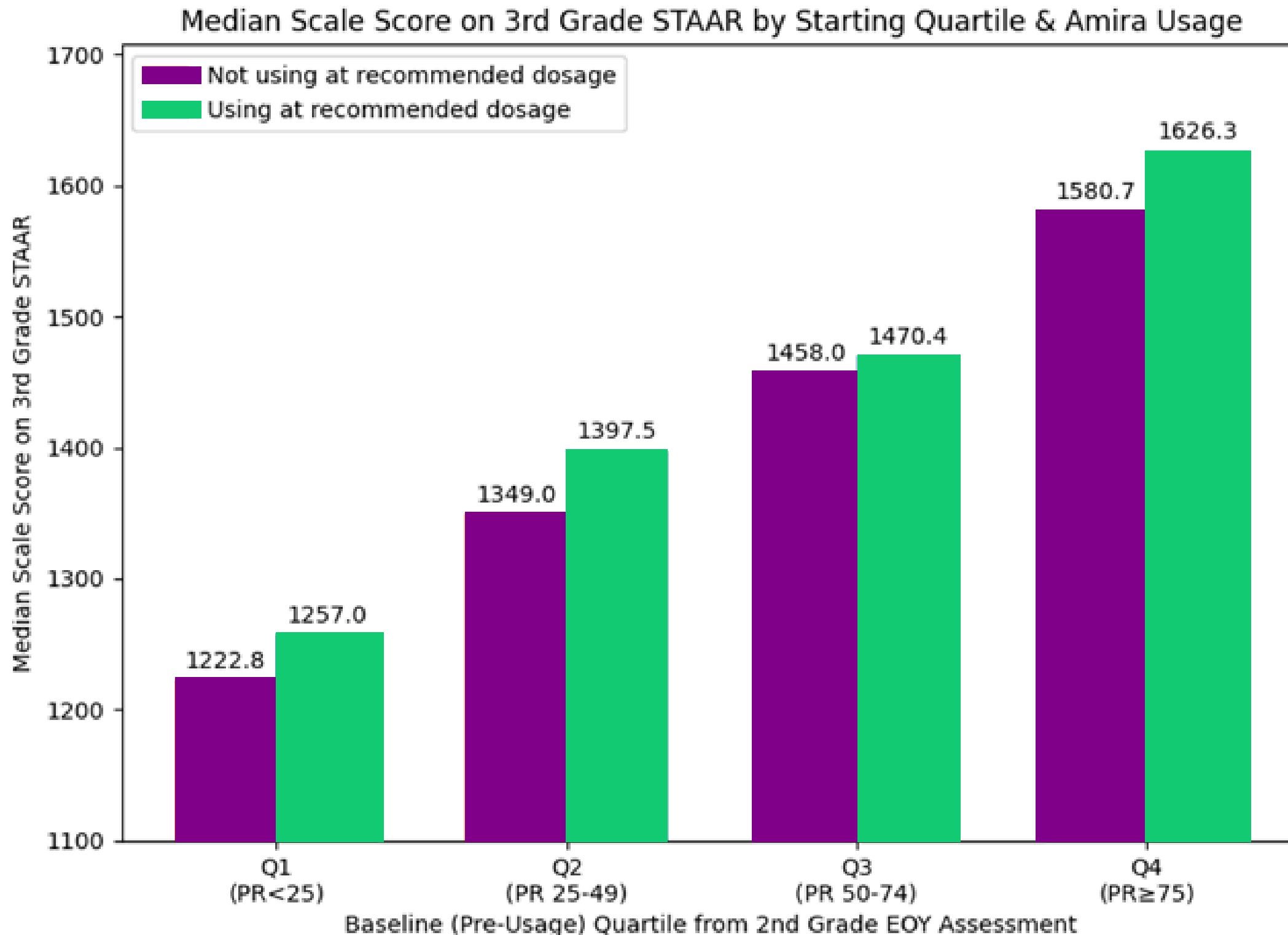
To support the Texas Education Association's (TEA's) review of efficacy, Amira worked with Amira-using districts in Texas to create a sample of using and non-using students. YoY growth in STAAR score performance was then used to isolate Amira's impact.

**Amira generated gains that averaged 36 STAAR points per student. @Dosage students gained roughly 9 Percentile Ranks compared to non-using peers.**

After reviewing the test data, the TEA validated Amira's impact by granting one of the few 1416 waivers awarded. Amira's acceleration takes hold when students work about 15 to 20 minutes a week. Peak effect is achieved via 2-4 short sessions weekly, consisting of ~30 minutes of Amira-scaffolded practice.

# What Does This Research Prove About Amira's Efficacy?

When controlling for the initial ability cohort as measured by students' quartiles at their 2nd grade EOY benchmark assessment, Texas students who used Amira Tutor at the recommended dosage in 3rd grade significantly outperformed students who did not.



## Who Conducted and Published the Research?

This research was conducted with X Texas Independent School Districts by the Amira Research team.

**Results were submitted to and reviewed by the Texas Education Agency as part of the 1416 Waiver approval.**



## Why is this research consistent with the Science of Reading?

Decades of research has shown that the most effective instructional method is 1:1 tutoring. The economics of human capital have created the so-called 2 sigma problem.

"The 2 Sigma Problem: The Search for Methods of Group Instruction as Effective as One-to-One Tutoring." B. Bloom, Educational Researcher (1984).



- *Students need 1:1 assistance and educators have had no way to afford providing a personal tutor.*
- *Working 1:1 with students, Amira brings the power of individual tutoring to every single child.*
- *In research conducted by Utah, North Dakota, Louisiana and in this study for the Texas Education Agency, Amira has shown the ability to power accelerated growth rates superior to human high dosage tutoring programs.*

**The 2 Sigma Problem**



# What did this study show?

Amira's Reading Suite consisting of Assess, Instruct, and Tutor, has had significant impact on student growth in Texas, as measured by STAAR scores.

- Amira Assess accurately predicts STAAR scores, with a correlation of 0.8 between ISIP 2nd grade EOY scores and 3rd grade EOY STAAR scores.
- Amira Instruct improves STAAR scores, with an average gain of 16 points for students using the app at the recommended dosage.
- Amira Tutor substantially enhances STAAR performance, with students working more than 30 minutes a week growing with an effect size of .45.

The research conclusively demonstrates that Amira’s Reading Suite predicts STAAR’s results and drives STAAR outcomes. Districts using Assess will have better information for shaping instruction. Districts using Instruct & Tutor will see better results.



Subject	Product Name	Overview	Grade Level Coverage (HB 1416 Applicable Grades)	Usage
RLA	Amira Learning Distributed by Amira or HMH	video	K-6 (4-6)	15 min 4x per week
RLA	HMH Read 180 Flex	video	3-12 (4-11)	20 min 4x per week
RLA	IXL Language Arts	video	PK-12 (4-11)	30 min 2x per week

## Where Can One Access the Full Study?

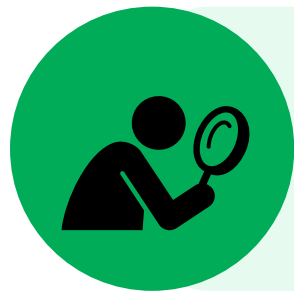
[The TEA's review and approval for the HB 1416 waiver is here.](#)

[Background is available on the Amira Learning website.](#) You can also reach out to [info@amiralearning.com](mailto:info@amiralearning.com).

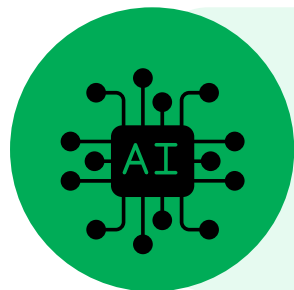


## Related Studies

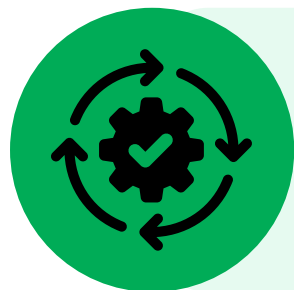
Several other studies support Amira's impact on literacy growth:



Evaluation and Training Institute (2023): Found Amira significantly outperformed a control group in Utah's Early Intervention Reading Software Program (**Read Report**).



Mostow et al. (Carnegie Mellon): Demonstrated that AI-powered reading tutors can be as effective as human tutors (**Read Study**).



Poulsen et al. (DePaul): Showed Amira's effectiveness for bilingual students (**Read Study**).

## Summary & Conclusion

**The research confirms that Amira generates growth equivalent to good, human-delivered High Dosage Tutoring.**

The 1416 waiver is keyed to the legislative requirement to demonstrate HDT-level impact. Amira is now in use at more than 70 Texas Districts producing gains that meet or exceed this threshold.