

A stack of three books is shown on the left side of the image. The top book is white with a yellow cover, the middle one is blue with a red spine, and the bottom one is white. A red apple sits on top of the white book, and a yellow pencil with a pink eraser lies horizontally across the top of the stack. The background is a solid green color.


Supporting Teachers, Supporting Readers

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Chelsea School District



The History

- **Washtenaw County Effective Practices Workgroup**
 - Adolescent Literacy
- **Reading Apprenticeship**
 - Framework
 - Content-area based
 - Adaptable



2006-2007

- Trained 2 teachers from each of 9 WISD schools
 - Variety of grade levels and content-areas, including special education
- Implemented in classrooms and met monthly
- Monitored results

Success!

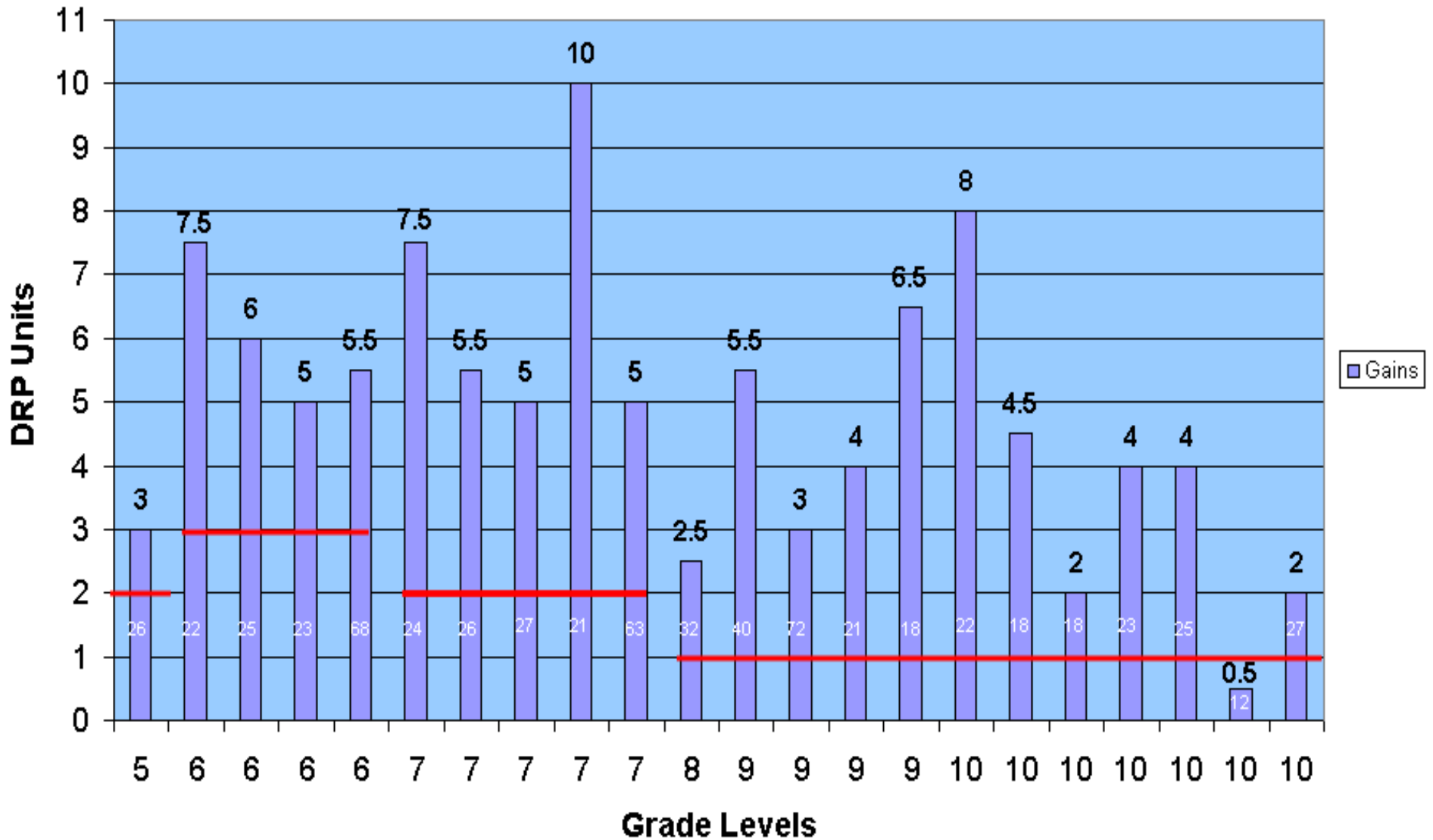
Student benefits

Teacher benefits

Statistically significant gains on
standardized reading test
over norming population and
control groups



Comparison of Treatment Group Median Gains to Norming Population



2007-2008

- Summer 2007 – trained 96 teachers county-wide
 - On-going support at the district/building-level
- Monthly meetings
 - County-wide of original 18
 - District/building level groups



The Chelsea Plan

- Focus on ninth grade transition
 - 6 teachers – content and special education teacher consultants
 - 3 middle school

Met monthly to discuss strategies, challenges, students and results

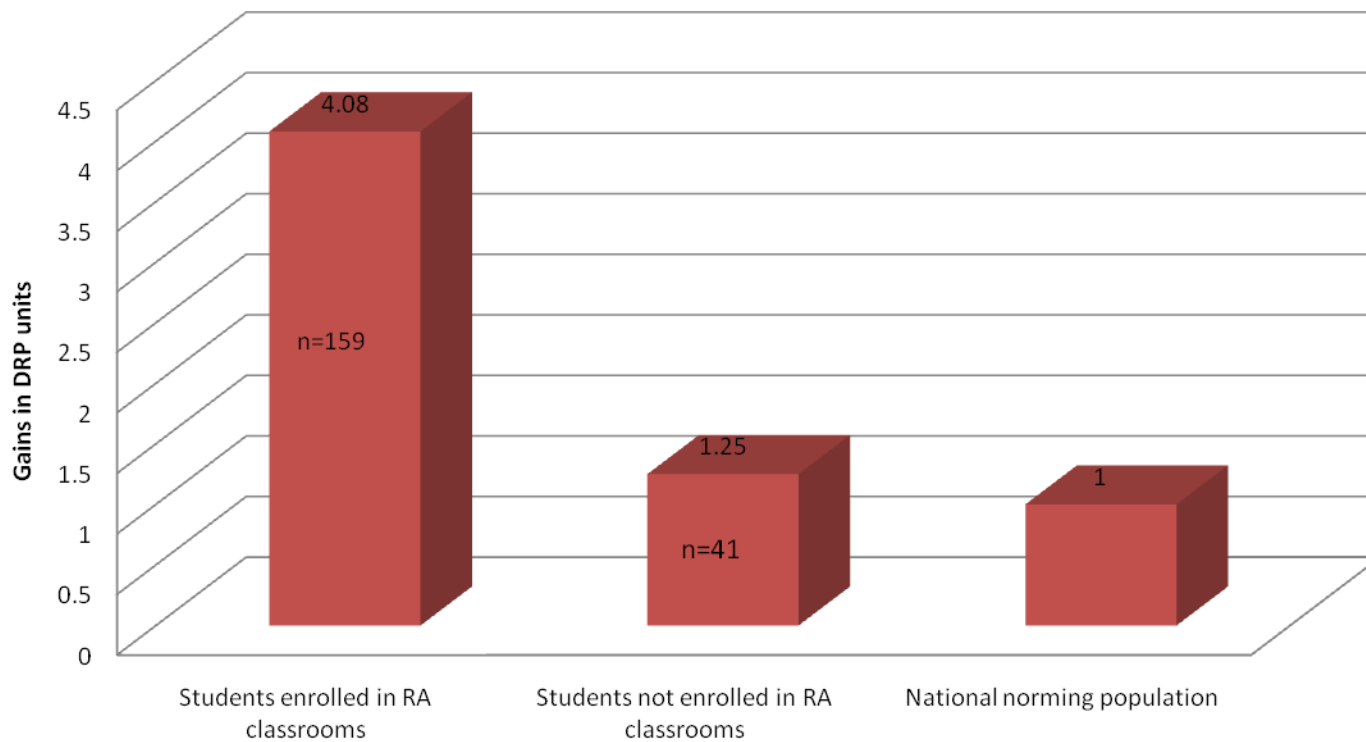


Success!

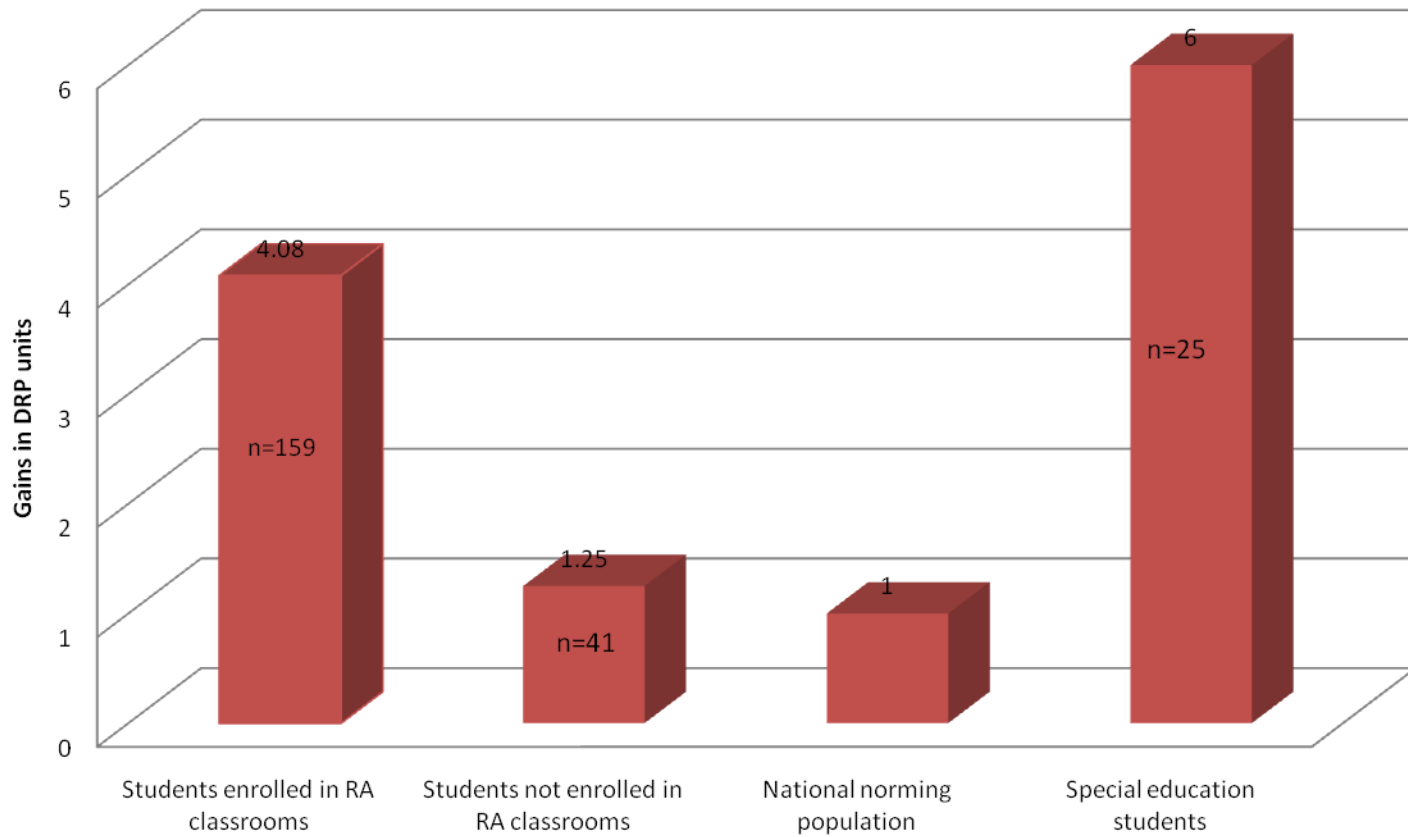
- Sharing strategies
- Continuity between classes
- Overall focus on literacy
- Statistically significant gains over control group



CHS 9th grade median gains on DRP 2007-2008



9th grade median gains on DRP 2007-2008





2008-2009

- Summer 2008 – trained 114 teachers county-wide
 - Original 18 took over training
- Chelsea -28 total
 - 17 CHS teachers
 - 7 Beach Middle School teachers
 - 4 South Meadows Int. teachers
 - 1 RA Coach
- Teachers represent all content-areas and special education.

With growth comes...


- Monthly meetings at 3 different buildings
- District-wide meetings across buildings and subject-areas
- Facilitator to support and help with continuity



Success!

- District-wide focus on adolescent literacy
- Continuity between classes and grade-levels
- Positive results in teacher and student feedback
- Statistically significant gains on standardized test





2009-2010

- Summer 2009 – trained 163 teachers county-wide
 - 3 different training sessions
- Chelsea -56 total
 - 28 CHS teachers
 - 16 BMS teachers
 - 11 South Meadows teachers
 - 1 RA Coach

 - Roughly 85% of content-area and special education staff trained district-wide

Opportunities

- Focus on reading using shared language and strategies 5-12
- Monthly meetings alternating building level and district-wide content-area
- District-wide website to share activities



Success – Teacher Outcomes

- Increased collaboration
- Increased repertoire of strategies to address reading in content-area
- Increased student independence in completing subject area work
- Culture change



Success – Teacher Feedback

“Our monthly meetings have made it easier to keep trying new ideas and strategies. It has developed into a truly collaborative group.” –
High School Social Studies

I’ve enjoyed talking about my methods with other teachers. It’s been helpful to talk about lessons across grade levels and see how similar strategies are used by different teachers.” –
Middle School ELA



Success – Student Outcomes

- Strategies reinforced across content areas and years
- Encouraged to be strategic and thoughtful in their reading
- Aware of their own processes as readers
- Take more ownership of learning.



Success – Student Feedback

“I can tell I improved as a reader because I know when I need to reread or slow down and think about what I read. Now I read to understand, not just get it done.”



Success – District-wide Results

- District-wide emphasis on literacy improvement
- Common language and strategic approach to reading
- Teacher collaboration around best practices in adolescent literacy





Resources

- Reading Apprenticeship – West Ed/Strategic Literacy Initiative
 - www.wested.org/sli
- Washtenaw ISD
 - Bill Loyd and Ronnie Connors
- Chelsea School District
 - hconklin@chelsea.k12.mi.us
 - aingall@chelsea.k12.mi.us