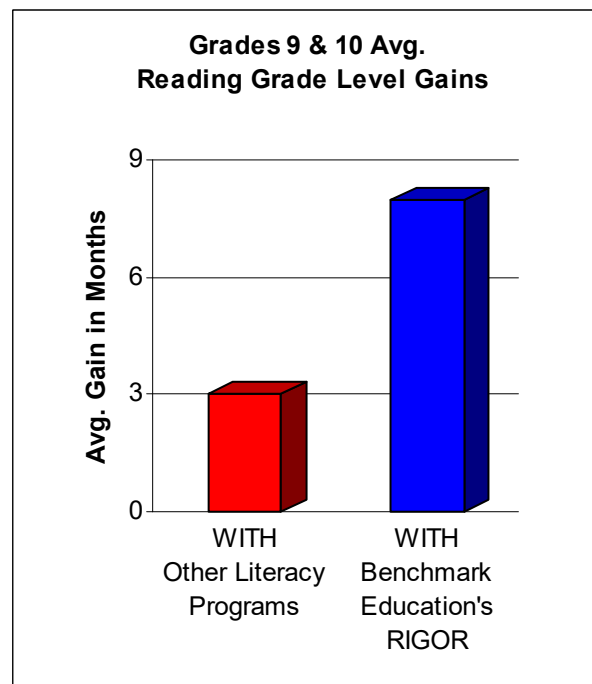


Scientifically-Based Research Study: *RIGOR* and *Reader's Theater*

In a scientifically-based study in Tulsa, OK, Special Needs students in Grades 9 and 10 using Benchmark Education's *RIGOR* and *Reader's Theater* progressed 8 months in reading level at semester's end vs. only 3-month gains by control students using other programs.

Students using *RIGOR* and *Reader's Theater* in this research study also showed statistically significant improvements in comprehension, oral reading fluency, silent reading rate, and vocabulary. Assessments used were Linda Gambrell's motivation survey, the NAEP fluency scale, and Nelson-Denny.



The research study was conducted in eight Special Needs classes at Union Intermediate High School (grades 9 and 10) in the Union Public School District #9, Tulsa, OK, under the auspices of Northeastern State University. The Students in the experimental classrooms spent 120 minutes per week using *RIGOR* and 135 minutes per week using *Reader's Theater* during the spring semester. Control students used other literacy programs.

Breakdown of the Grades 9 & 10 Special Needs students in the study:

Category	%
Learning Disabled	81%
Intellectually Disabled (MR)	11%
Other Health Impaired (ADHD)	4%
Emotionally Disturbed	2%
Autistic	2%