

## Question:

What was the impact of changing the Kindergarten grade level expectation for the DRA2 and EDL2 from text level 3 to 4 in the 2010-2011 school year?

## Answer:

In the spring of 2011, the percent of Kindergarten students who scored at text level 4 increased substantially over the previous 2 years (see Figure 1). However, **only 1 in 4 students who were reading at text level 4 at the end of Kindergarten were still reading at the same level\*** when they returned to school in the fall (see Figure 2). In addition, this percentage has trended downward over the past two years.

\*Instructional text level 6 was used as the expectation for the fall of 1<sup>st</sup> grade because it is equivalent to independent text level 4.

Figure 1: Percent of Kinder students by text level

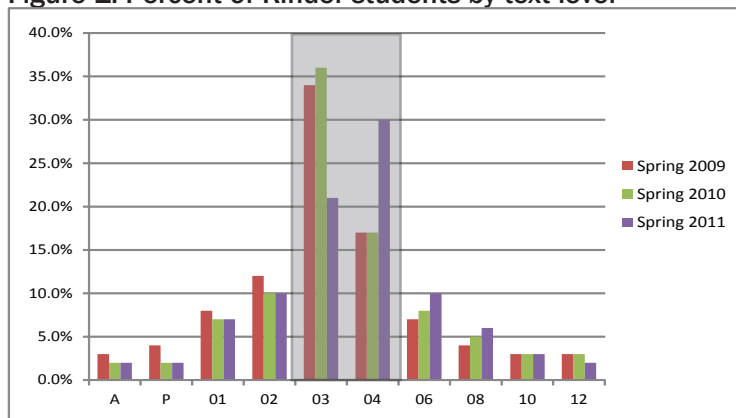
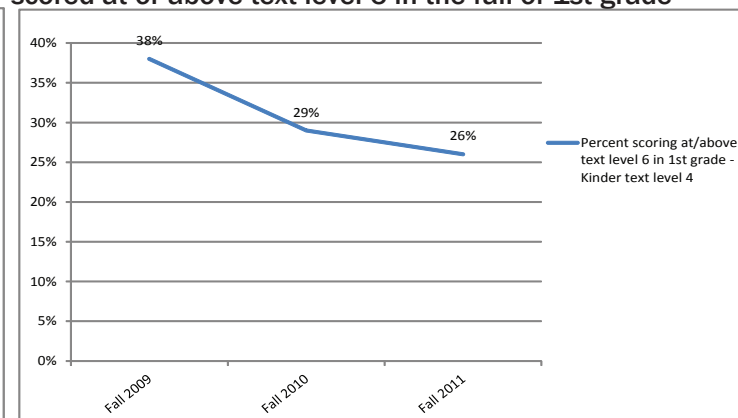


Figure 2: Percent of Kinder students at text level 4 who scored at or above text level 6 in the fall of 1st grade



**Considerations:** Far too many students who were reading at text level 4 in Kindergarten are losing the gains they made by the fall of 1st grade. The websites below provide information and resources for administrators, teachers, and parents on helping children develop and maintain successful reading habits. "Of all the activities in which children engage outside of school, time spent actually reading is the best predictor of reading achievement - the more students read, the better readers they become (Allington, 2006; Anderson, Wilson, & Fielding, 1988)."

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/> (resources for parents and ELLs)

<http://www.scholastic.com/summer/> (online tool to track summer reading, recommended reading materials)

<http://www.kidstoreaders.com/getting-kids-reading-for-parents.pdf> (tips for parents to motivate readers)