



# Learning Upgrade Research Evaluation Results

March 2026

Over 4 million students have been enrolled by schools, colleges, libraries, and organizations in the Learning Upgrade program of online courses. The evaluation results below summarize the growth achieved by students in research trials.

## **Ghana Research Evaluation: Outcomes in 6 Rural Schools for English and Math**

The Learning Upgrade Program, supported by high-speed internet connectivity through Starlink devices, was implemented in six schools across four districts: Ho West, Agortime Ziope, Adaklu, and Ho Central. The initiative aimed to strengthen English and Mathematics performance while building digital confidence among learners from Basic 1 through SHS 3.

After one year of implementation, an independent impact evaluation was conducted by Selorm Mensah, PhD Candidate at the University for Development Studies, Ghana, to assess whether the program was truly making a difference.

### **Summary of results:**

**English Literacy: 30% relative improvement**

**Math: 40% relative improvement**

**Gender gap closed in Math**

Full Research Report:

<https://web.learningupgrade.com/2026/02/19/transforming-foundational-learning-in-ghanas-volta-region-with-learning-upgrade-and-starlink/>

## **Barbara Bush Foundation Adult Literacy XPRIZE Competition**

Designed to break down barriers to adult education and empower adult learners, this prize challenged teams to create mobile apps that could dramatically improve literacy skills within 12 months, using the devices already in people's hands.

Learning Upgrade was the co-grand prize winner of the competition, with the highest growth on the CASAS reading assessment over a one year trial with 12,000 learners randomly assigned to the eight finalist literacy apps.

<https://www.xprize.org/competitions/adult-literacy>



### **Aga Khan Development Network FOCUS Trial with 800 Refugee Students**

The goal of this trial was to prepare 800 refugees in Turkey for repatriation into Canada by improving their English skills to required CEFR levels. The trial occurred during COVID with minimal in person access to students.

The results showed significant growth on the CEFR scale, with most students starting at Pre-A1 or A1 level, and over 40% of students making 2 or more levels of growth within 6 months. Over 20% of students reached a C1 level and another 20% reached B1 or B2.

<https://web.learningupgrade.com/2022/07/05/transforming-students-into-teachers-the-refugee-learning-journey/>

### **Manzanita Community School: Breaking Down Language Barriers**

Oakland, CA is one of the most ethnically diverse areas in California. About 29 languages are spoken in their public schools, and forty-six percent of their students are English Language Learners (ELL). The wide variance in students' skills has made differentiated instruction especially challenging for Manzanita Community School, but Learning Upgrade has proven to be an effective solution. Over 90% of students school-wide improved in reading using the Lexile scale.

[https://www.learningupgrade.com/html/Manzanita\\_LU\\_SuccessStory.pdf](https://www.learningupgrade.com/html/Manzanita_LU_SuccessStory.pdf)

### **Castle Park Middle School Wide Gains**

Castle Park Middle is located in Chula Vista, California within the Sweetwater Union High School District. The school is an urban school with 96% minority students, 88% economically disadvantaged, and 65% English learners. The school implemented the Learning Upgrade program for math intervention. Teachers tracked student progress to the gold certificate level of mastery through web-based reports. Castle Park Middle implemented the Learning Upgrade program within academic supports for students needing intervention. The supports were both in school and in after school sessions.

The school achieved significant gains in math for the school as a whole in all grade levels and for subgroups of students within one school year. This report details the results.

[https://www.learningupgrade.com/html/LU\\_WP\\_CastleParkMiddle\\_2013.pdf](https://www.learningupgrade.com/html/LU_WP_CastleParkMiddle_2013.pdf)



### **Five School Achieving Gains in Reading and Math with Learning Upgrade**

This report shows results from five schools implementing Learning Upgrade for intervention in reading and math. In addition to showing data from the schools, the report summarizes a plan for intervention based on the school's experiences.

[https://www.learningupgrade.com/html/LU\\_SchoolWideGains2012.pdf](https://www.learningupgrade.com/html/LU_SchoolWideGains2012.pdf)