

### *The percentage of middle school students achieving proficiency on the Renaissance Star 360 Reading Assessment increased nearly tenfold after participation in UpSmart*

During the 2018–2019 school year, Levy County School District (LCSD) piloted UpSmart with 6th and 7th grade students at Williston Middle High School. As Figure 1 shows, the percentage of students performing At or Above Benchmark on the Renaissance Star 360 Reading Assessment increased nearly tenfold (from 4.1 percent to 40 percent), while the percentage of students performing at the Intervention performance level decreased by nearly half (from 88.2 percent to 45 percent). These changes in Renaissance Star 360 performance levels from 2018 to 2019 were statistically significant ( $p < .05$ ).

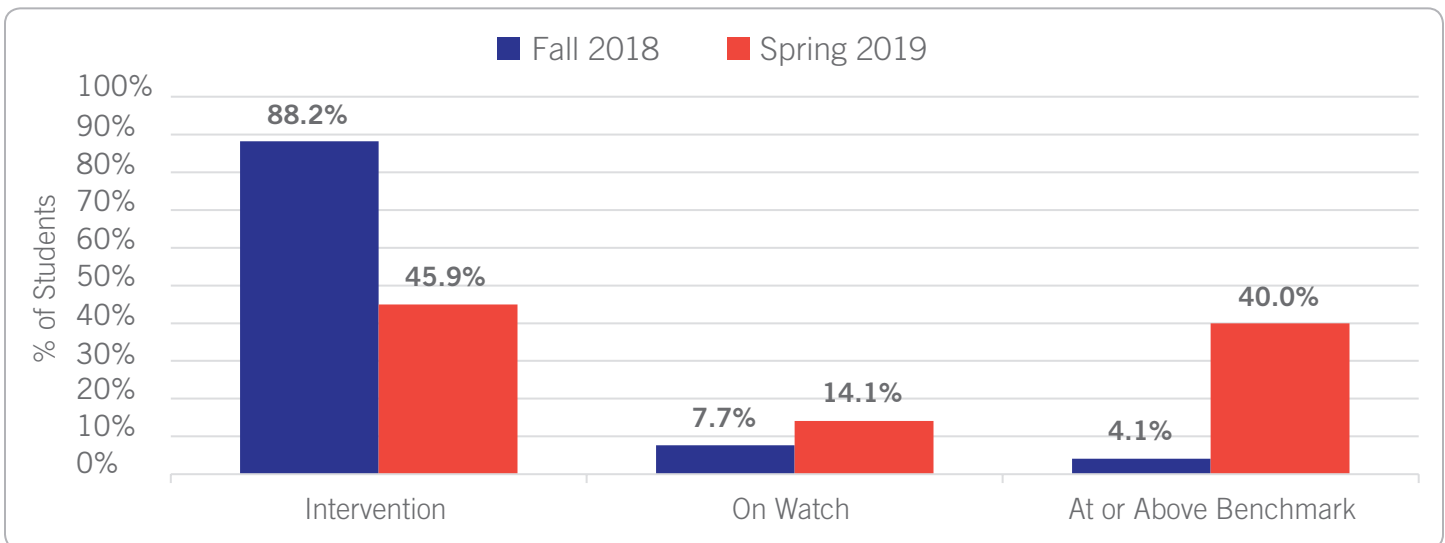
#### LEVY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT:

**Enrollment:** 5,576 Students

White:	71%
Black:	12%
Hispanic:	12%
Two or more races:	4%
Asian:	<1%
American Indian/Alaska Native:	<1%

**Figure 1. Williston Middle High School, Grades 6 and 7**

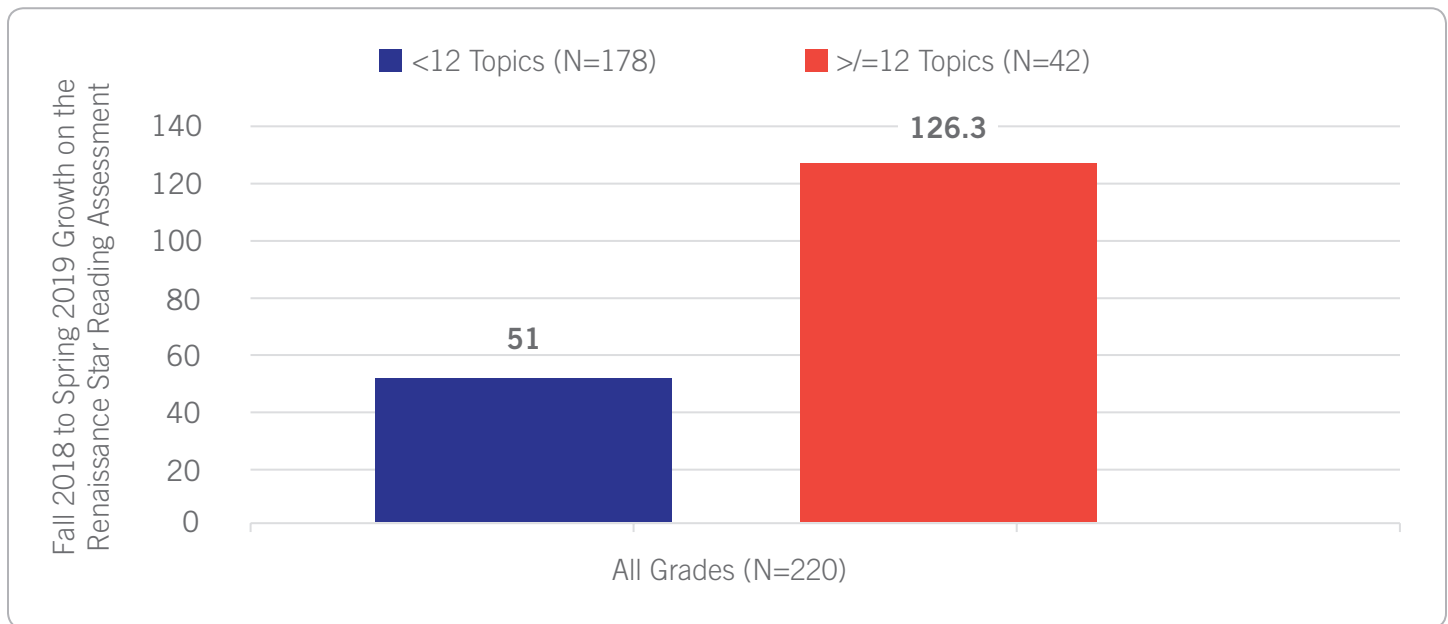
Performance on the Renaissance Star 360 Reading Assessment, Fall 2018 to Spring 2019



Edgenuity also investigated the relationship between topics completed in UpSmart and growth on the Renaissance Star 360 Reading Assessment from fall 2018 to spring 2019. As seen in Figure 2, while students who completed more than 12 topics demonstrated a gain of 126.3 scale score points, students who completed fewer than 12 topics demonstrated a gain of 51 scale score points ( $p = .011$ ).

## Figure 2. Williston Middle High School, Grades 6 and 7

Levy County Star Reading Growth by Number of UpSmart Topics Completed, 2018–2019



### Challenge

Located approximately 133 miles southwest of Tallahassee, LCSD serves 5,500 students in grades pre-K through 12. The district was interested in finding a supplemental online tool that would help students practice and master grade-level skills and standards.

### Solution

LCSD selected UpSmart because of its ability to offer students assessment, instruction, and practice with grade-level concepts and technology-enhanced items. Middle school students at Williston Middle High School used UpSmart as part of their first period critical thinking class.

### Lessons Learned

After using Edgenuity UpSmart for one year, the school learned that:

- **Time on task matters:** There was a positive correlation between the time students spent in UpSmart and their spring 2019 Renaissance Star 360 Reading Assessment scores (6th grade  $r = .30$ ; 7th grade  $r = .14$ ). Students who spent more minutes in UpSmart demonstrated higher scores on the spring 2019 reading test.
- **Adaptive technology supports students:** Teachers reported that the program's scaffolding (hints, explanatory feedback, and instructional videos) helped students master challenging, standards-based curricula. They also noted that the program fostered critical thinking skills and it was easy to monitor student progress.