

The Impact of Rocket Learning
Tutoring on Reading Achievement:
Stakeholder Satisfaction Report



METROPOLITAN CENTER FOR URBAN EDUCATION

January 2012



Overview

Metro Center

The Metropolitan Center for Urban Education's (Metro Center) at New York University conducted an independent evaluation of the Rocket Learning Program. We analyzed student level achievement data of Rocket Learning participants and non-participants from the following sites: Chicago, California, and Northeast (New York and New Jersey).

Rocket Learning

Founded in 2004, Rocket Learning is one of the nation's leading Supplemental Educational Services ("SES") providers; offering tutoring services mandated under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Rocket has provided literacy and/or mathematics tutoring to more than 150,000 low income students in over 1,500 partner schools. Rocket Learning is minority owned and operated and provides tutoring services in sixteen states, Washington, DC and the commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Methods

The surveys were administered by Rocket Learning administrators from January to October of 2010 at sites in which Rocket Learning was operating during the 2009-10 or 2010-2011 school year. The survey items were drawn from existing Metro Center and Rocket Learning surveys as well as other surveys used in evaluations of after-school programs, including surveys developed for Policy Studies Associates in their evaluation of after-school programs funded by the After-School Corporation. The items include a combination of rating scale and open-ended questions. Open-ended survey items were coded and tabulated for analysis.

Key Findings

- **Rocket Learning Parents are very satisfied and are knowledgeable about various aspects of the program.**
- **The overwhelming majority of Teachers working with Rocket Learning are very satisfied with program's services and instructional methods**
- **Administrators are highly satisfied with Rocket Learning Services**
- **Students are very satisfied with the services they are receiving from Rocket Learning**

Data Highlights

Rocket Learning Parents are very satisfied and are knowledgeable about various aspects of the program.

- With responses from nearly all parents of the 3,000 Rocket Learning students, the majority (96%) of the 2,652 parent respondents expressed strong positive views of the program and that their child had benefited from participation in the program and agreed that they would like re-enroll their students in the program next year. (See Table 1)
- Close to 100 percent of parents agreed that staff and teachers in the program care about their child, that their child feels safe and comfortable in the program, and that their child was

getting to work on lessons and projects that help him/her improve academically. (See Table 1)

Table 1: Impressions of Rocket Learning Program Quality among Parents of Program Participants

Item	N	Agree		Disagree	
		N	%	N	%
In the program, my child gets a chance to work on projects and lessons that help him/her do better academically.	2405	96.6	85	3.4	
The program helps my child to work on the things in school that he/she needs the most help with.	2371	93.7	160	6.3	
My child enjoys the program.	2468	95.3	123	4.8	
The staff and the teachers in the program care about my child.	2489	98.2	46	1.8	
My child feels safe and comfortable in the program.	2533	98.0	52	2.0	
The program has helped to increase my child's academic achievement.	2393	94.5	139	5.5	
My child has benefited from the program.	2423	95.6	111	4.4	
I would register my child again in the program.	2388	95.7	107	4.3	

Notes: Figures represent the proportion of respondents that indicated that they “Strongly agree” or “Agree” with the item (agree) or “Strongly disagree” or “Disagree” (Disagree).

The overwhelming majority of Teachers working with Rocket Learning are very satisfied with program’s services and instructional methods

- The overwhelming majority of teachers working with Rocket Learning found the curriculum well-paced, meets the diverse needs of students and they are using the strategies in other areas of instruction. (See Table 2)
- More than 92 percent of teacher respondents indicated that they found the Rocket Learning trainings useful in their work as teachers in the program and that they used components of the trainings in their Rocket Learning instruction. (See Table 3)
- Impressions of Rocket Learning program quality among program teachers were mostly positive. More than 80 percent of respondents agreed with positive statements about different program elements on 8 of the 12 items. (Table 4)

Table 2: Perceptions of the Rocket Learning Curriculum Materials among Rocket Learning Teachers

Impression of Curriculum	N	Agree		Disagree	
		%	N	%	N
The curriculum is aligned appropriately with state standards.	585	87.1	87	13.0	
The curriculum covers the heavily tested skills that appear on the state test.	535	80.8	127	19.2	
The curriculum addresses diverse learning styles.	547	81.2	127	18.8	
The curriculum reinforces concepts taught during the school day.	562	85.0	99	15.0	

Notes: Figures represent the proportion of respondents that indicated that they “Strongly agree” or “Agree” with the item (Agree) or “Strongly disagree” or “Disagree” (Disagree).

Table 3: Impressions of Rocket Learning Trainings among Rocket Learning Teachers

Impression of Rocket Learning Trainings	N	Agree		Disagree	
		%	N	%	N
Has been useful for me in my work as a Rocket Learning teacher	636	92.4	52	7.6	
Use components of the trainings regularly in my work as a Rocket Learning teacher	610	88.9	76	11.1	

Table 4: Impressions of Rocket Learning Program Quality among Program Teachers

Quality Indicator	N	Agree		Disagree	
		%	N	%	N
The program offers activities that engage all of the participants.	549	82.8	114	17.2	
Groups are small enough for staff to meet participants’ individual needs.	539	81.2	125	18.8	
There is adequate time for students to transition from regular school to Rocket Learning activities.	543	84.8	97	15.2	
Participants are offered individual attention in the program when they need it.	538	82.1	117	17.9	
The program provides adequate academic support for participants.	556	84.4	103	15.6	
Participants feel physically and emotionally safe in the Rocket Learning program.	618	96.0	26	4.0	
I receive the support and guidance from Rocket Learning administration I need to work effectively.	536	83.5	106	16.5	

Administrators are highly satisfied with Rocket Learning Services

- The majority of Principals and SES Coordinators consider RL beneficial, well organized, and belief program has improved student achievement. (See Table 5)

Table 5: Impressions of Rocket Learning Program Quality among Principal and SES Coordinators

Item	Agree		Disagree		Don't Know	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Rocket Learning has been an overall benefit to my school community.	21	75.0	2	7.1	5	17.9
Rocket Learning staff members have been responsive and professional.	26	96.3	0	0.0	1	3.7
The Rocket Learning program is well organized.	23	85.2	3	11.1	1	3.7
I like the Rocket Learning curriculum and feel it has met my students' needs.	18	72.0	2	8.0	5	20.0
Rocket Learning has improved my participating students' academic achievement.	20	74.1	0	0.0	7	25.9
Rocket Learning is the best SES/after-school tutoring program.	9	34.6	3	11.5	14	53.8
I would invite Rocket Learning to partner with my school again.	11	77.8	00	0.0	5	22.2
I would refer Rocket Learning to other school administrators.	19	70.4	1	3.7	7	25.9

Students are very satisfied with the services they are receiving from Rocket Learning

- An overwhelming majority of program participants agreed that they enjoyed the program, the staff and teachers care about them, and feel safe and comfortable in the program. (See Table 6).

Table 6: Impressions of Rocket Learning Program Quality among Program Participants

Item	Agree		Disagree	
	N	%	N	%
In the program, I get a chance to work on projects and lessons that help me do better in school.	463	84.3	86	15.7
The program helps me to work on the things in school that I need the most help with.	437	78.7	118	21.3
I enjoy the program.	494	89.5	58	10.5
The staff and the teachers in the program care about me.	495	94.3	30	5.7
I feel safe and comfortable in the program.	505	92.2	43	7.9
The program has helped me do better in school.	454	84.2	85	15.8
I have benefited from the program.	442	86.8	67	13.2
I would like to participate in the program again next year.	339	74.0	119	26.0

Contact Information

For more information and copy of evaluation report, please contact Dr. Edward Fergus (eaf7@nyu.edu and 212-998-5253) and Dr. Pedro Noguera (pan6@nyu.edu and 212-998-5787).