

Scaling Down Costs to Scale Up Effective Programs

Evidence from Two Randomized Interventions

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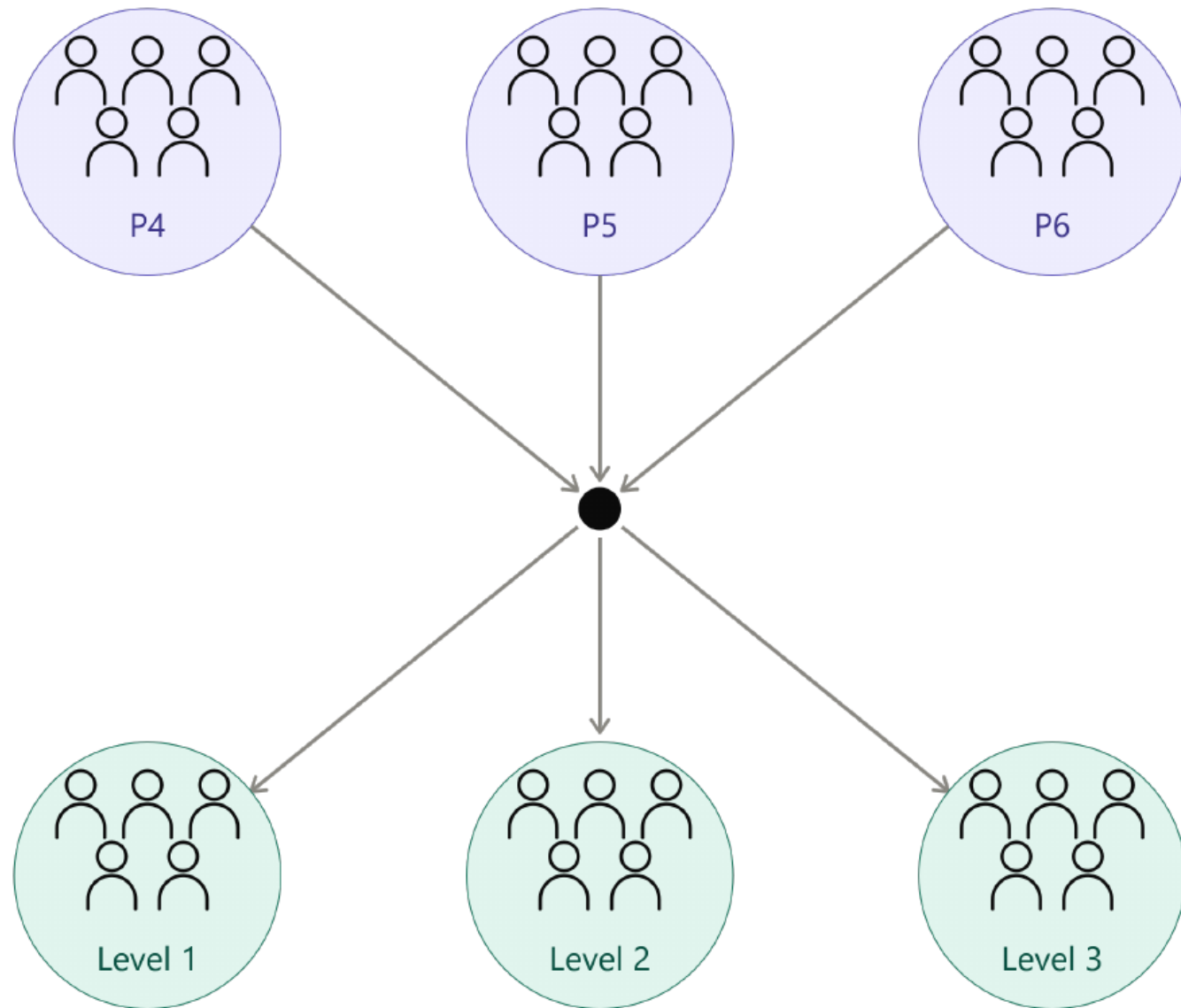
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Taking Differentiated Learning to Scale

Differentiated Learning

Students in Class Levels

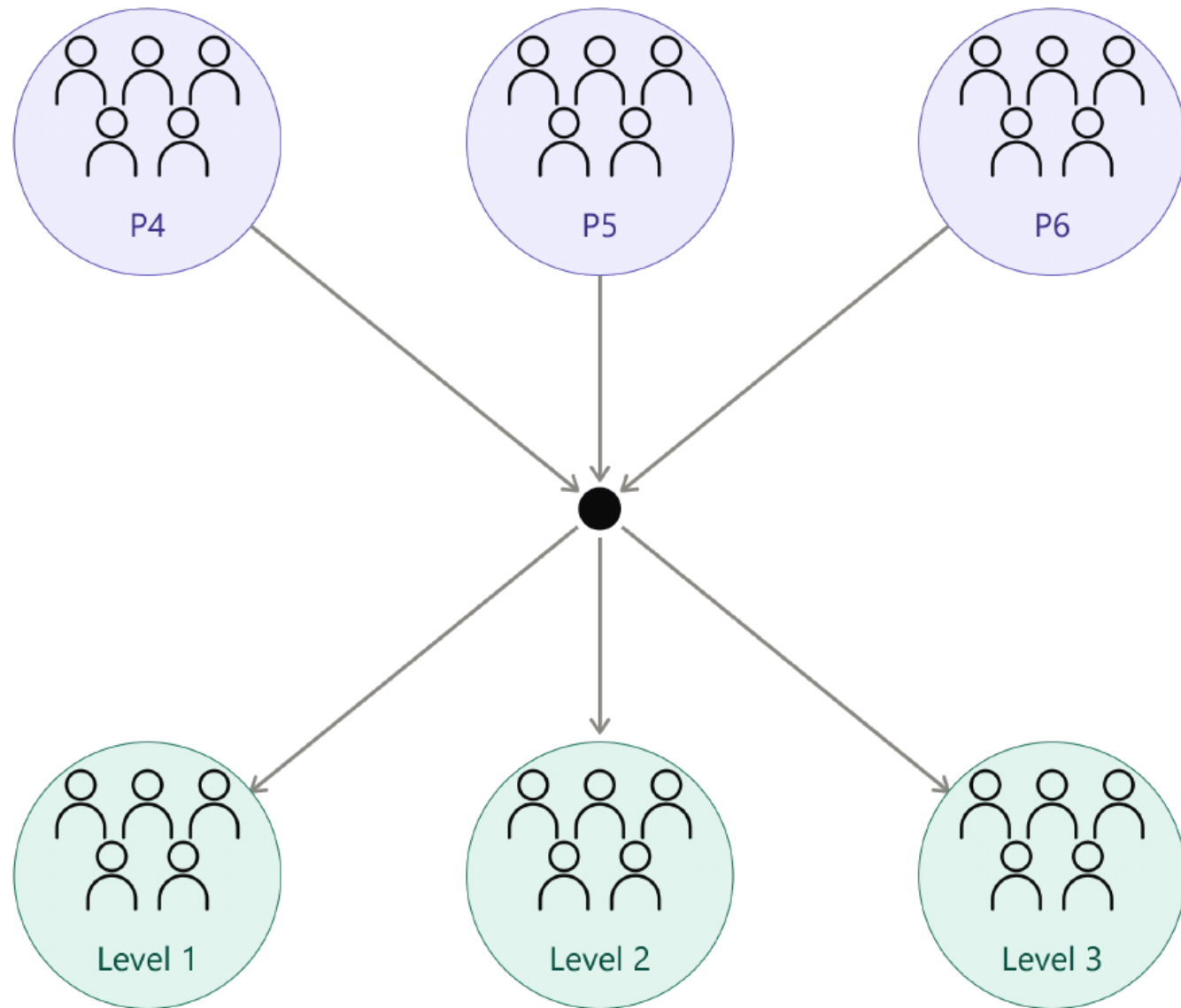


Students in Learning Levels

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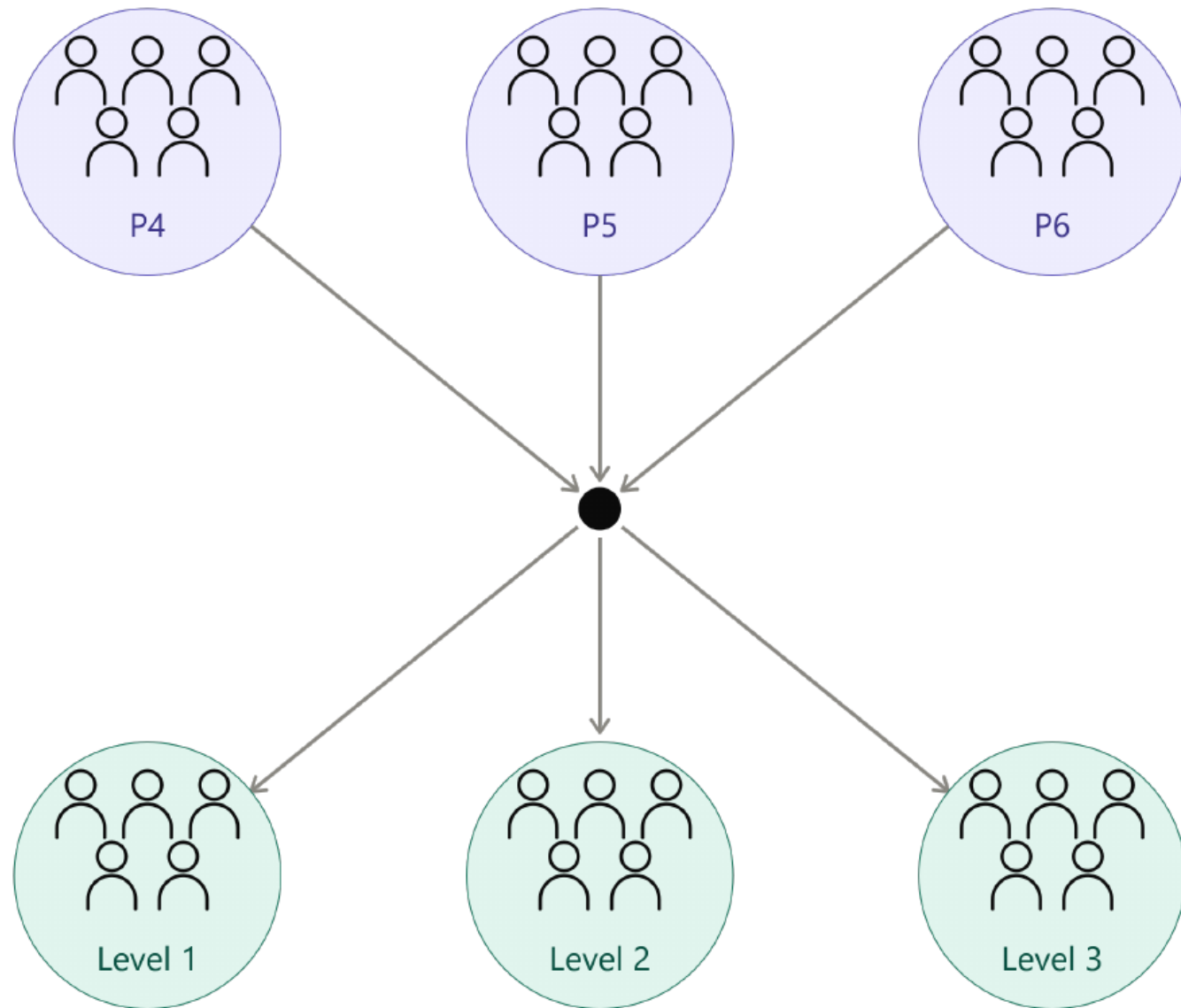
Students in Learning Levels

- DL increases student learning in Ghana
 - When implemented by assistants (Dulfo, Kiessel, & Lucas, 2024)
 - When teachers are supported with management and checklists (Beg et al., 2026)

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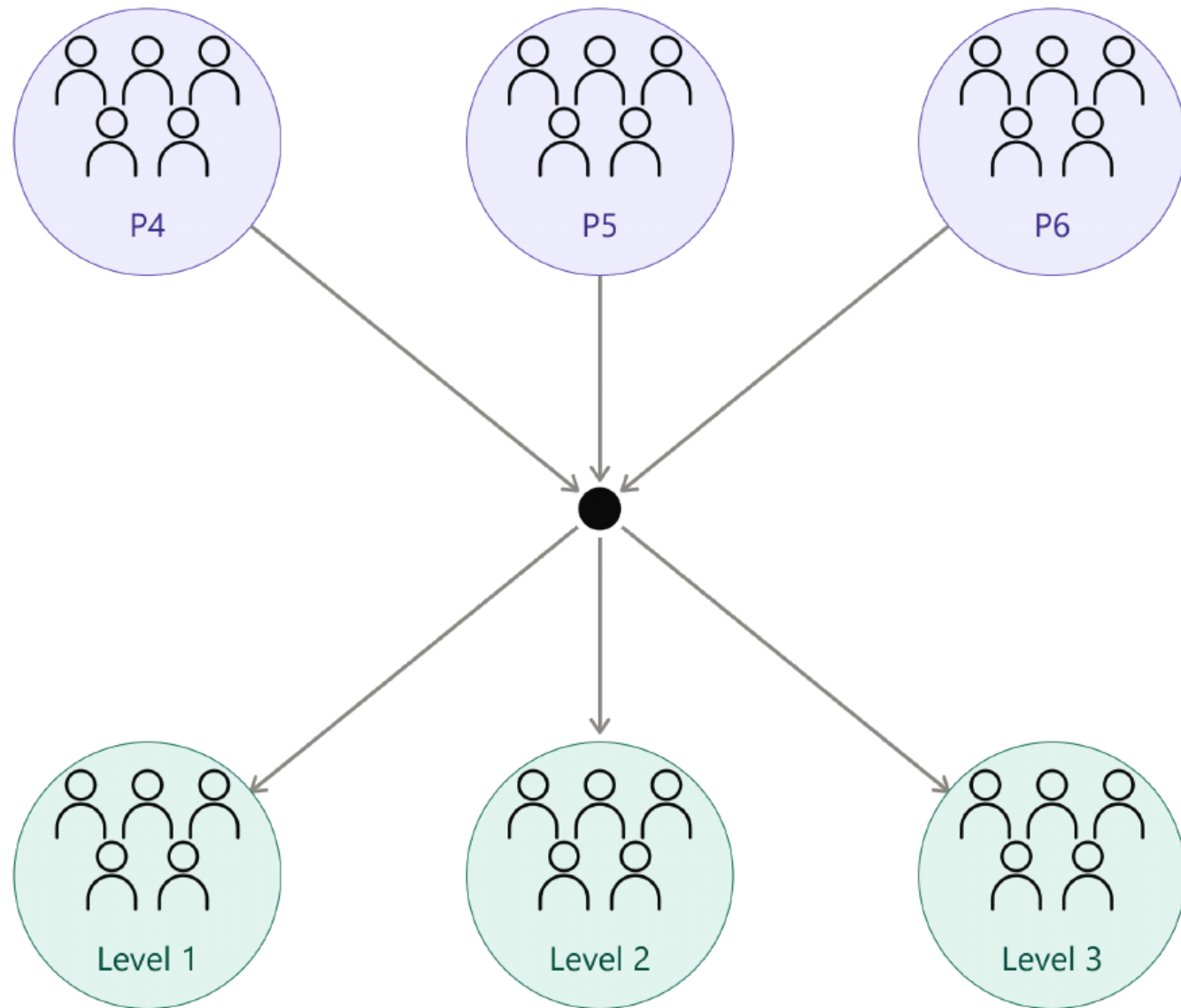
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 - **When educators receive multiple rounds of refresher trainings**

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 - **When educators receive multiple rounds of refresher trainings**
- Scaling to 10K primary schools → refresher trainings get very, very expensive

What do refresher trainings do?

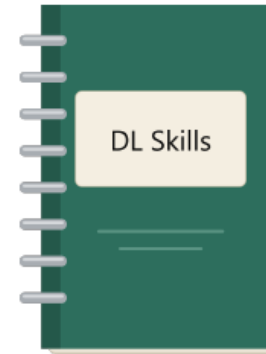
Refresher trainings...

This is important!



Signal
Institutional
Priorities

Bring Teachers
Together



Refresh DL Skills



Elucidate Benefits



Troubleshoot
Problems

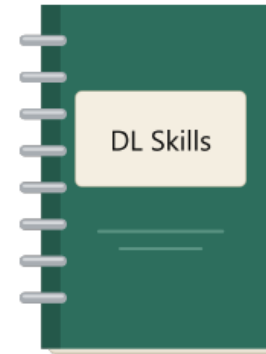
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Is all (any) of this necessary to sustain programs at scale?

Two Randomized Controlled Trials

Status Quo: All teachers 3 day in-service DL training, edict to implement DL

Two randomized controlled trials with three treatments (and a status quo control):

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Two randomized controlled trials with three treatments (and a status quo control):

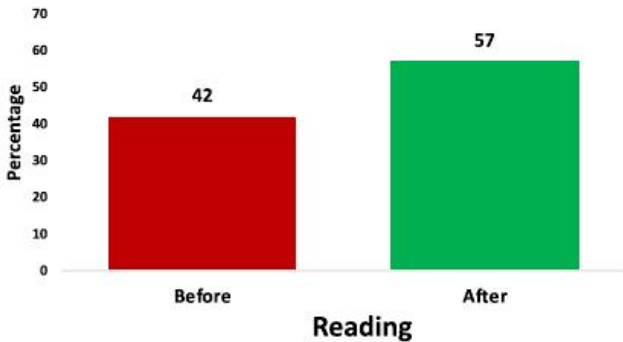
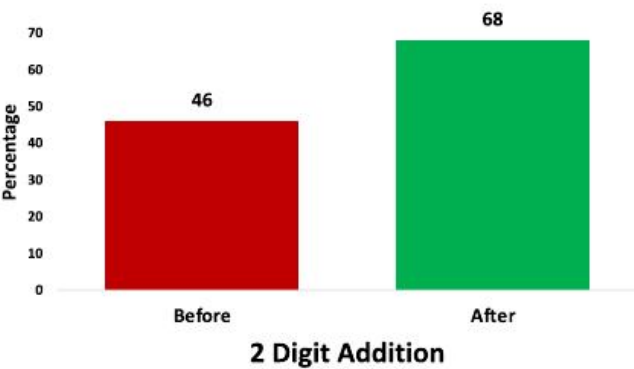
	 This is important!		 DL Skills	 DL Improves Test Scores	
	Signal Priorities	Bring Teachers Together	Refresh DL Skills	Elucidate Benefits	Troubleshoot Problems
In-person refresher training	✓ ✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ✓
Digital refresher training	✓		✓	✓	✓
(bonus reminder)	✓				
Information session + Pamphlet	✓			✓	

Samples: 230 schools training RCT, 200 schools information RCT

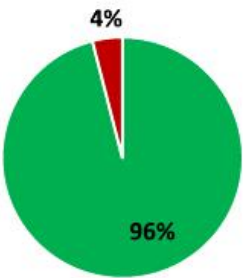
The Information Session + Pamphlet



Differentiated Learning is Proven Effective in Ghana



Nearly All Students Can Read 3 Letter Sight Words After 1 year



70% can do basic geometry



What teachers are saying about Differentiated Learning...

For me, the program has been the best program ever that I have had to implement.

I had a pupil who before the program was a poor reader but was very fluent after the intervention.

if I child realizes that he/she can improve, then there is nothing to stop that child from learning.

program was very useful for our students

should be the new standard in the education system.

if you continue, it will change lives.

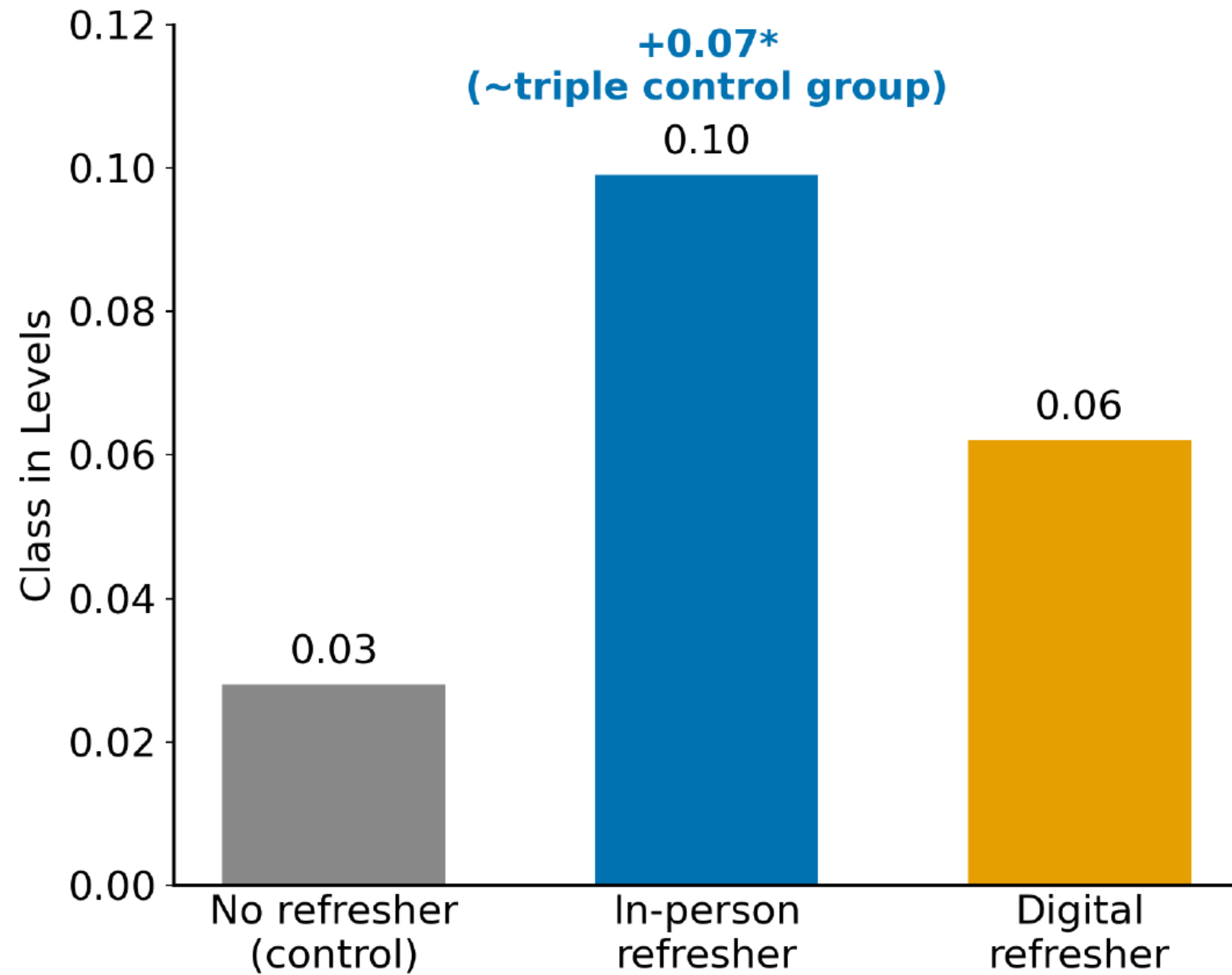
The kids really enjoyed the numeracy classes because they were packed with activities.

the changes in the performance of the children was superb.

When the program kicked started, some of my students picked up pace really fast.

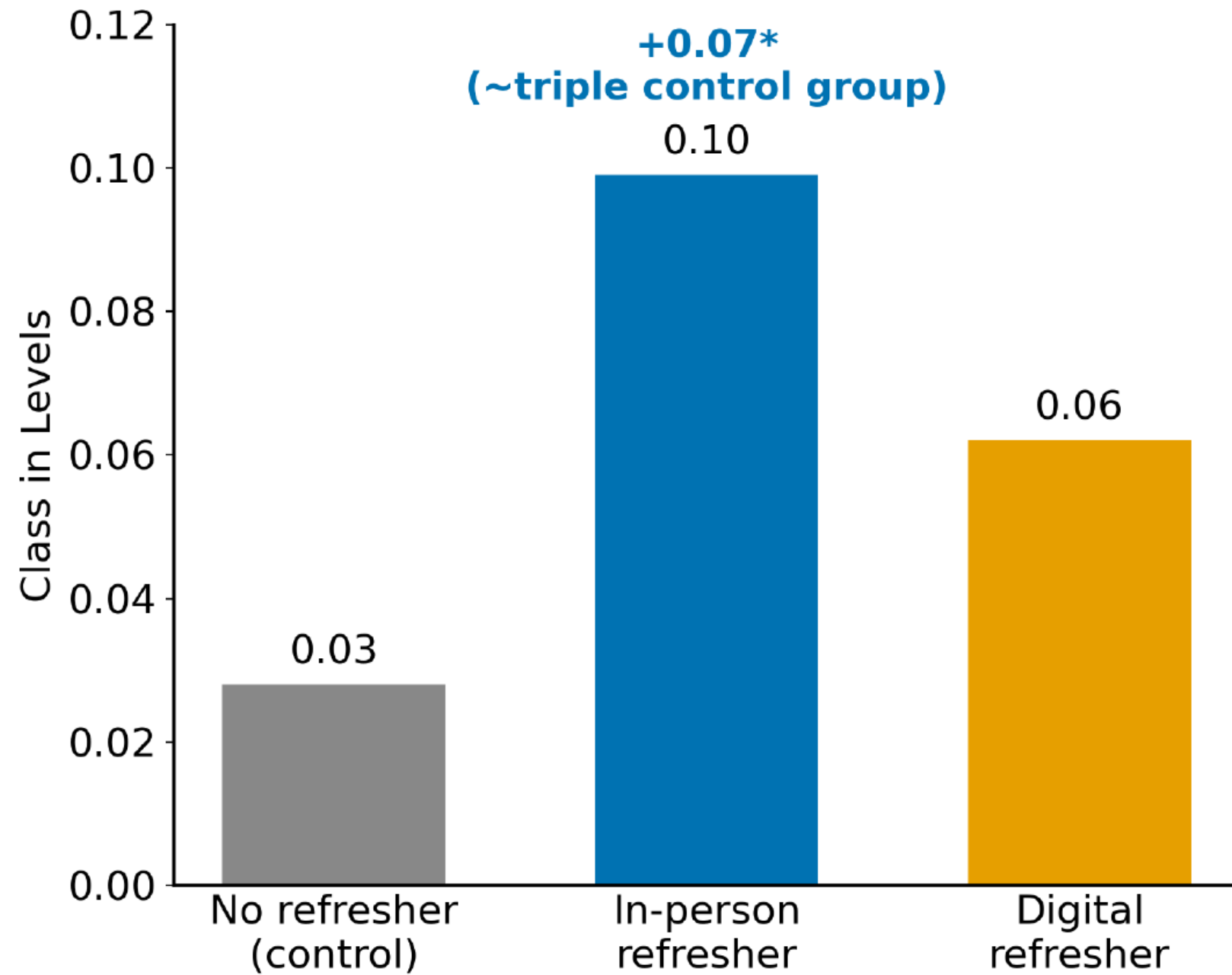
Results

In-person training increased implementation and learning

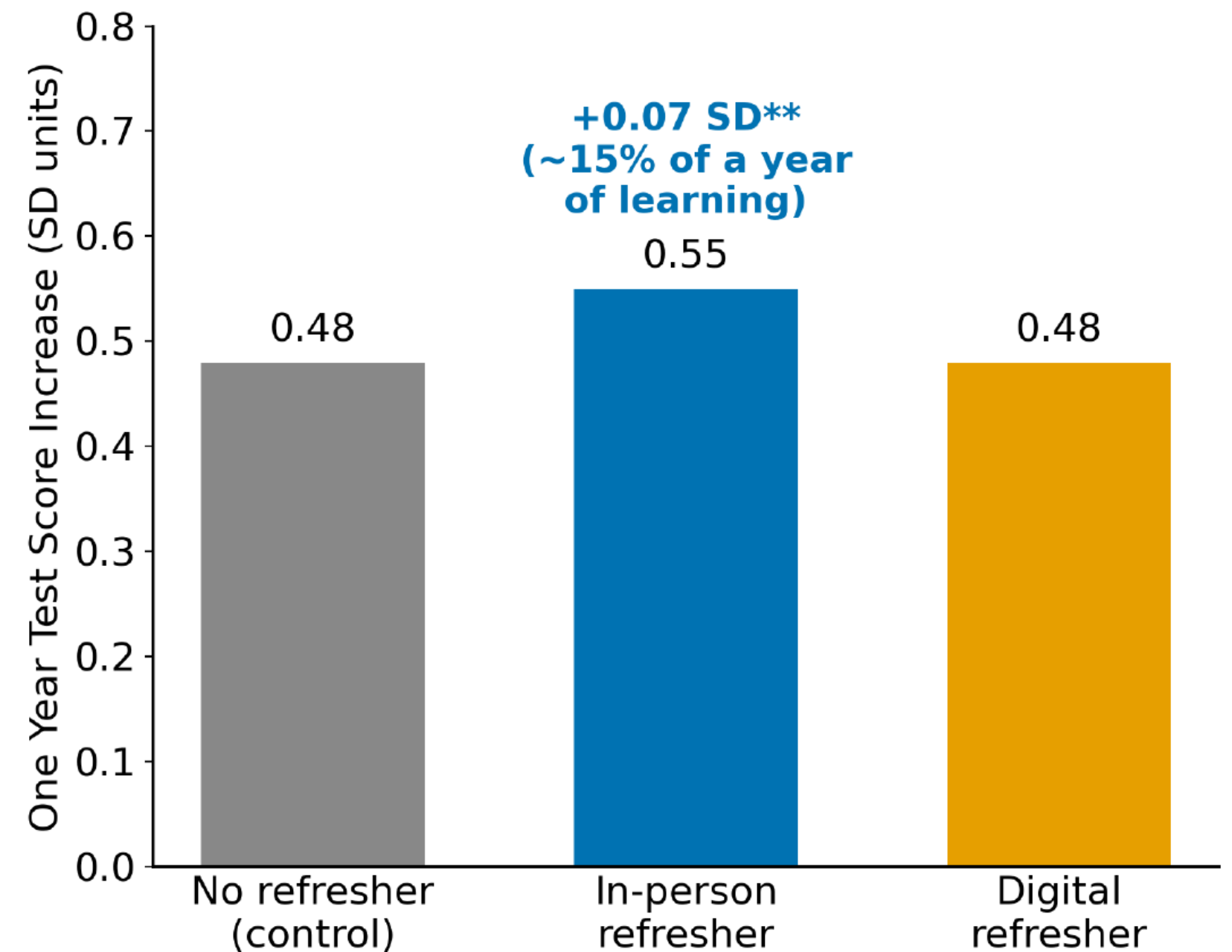


In person refresher training increased implementation...

In-person training increased implementation and learning

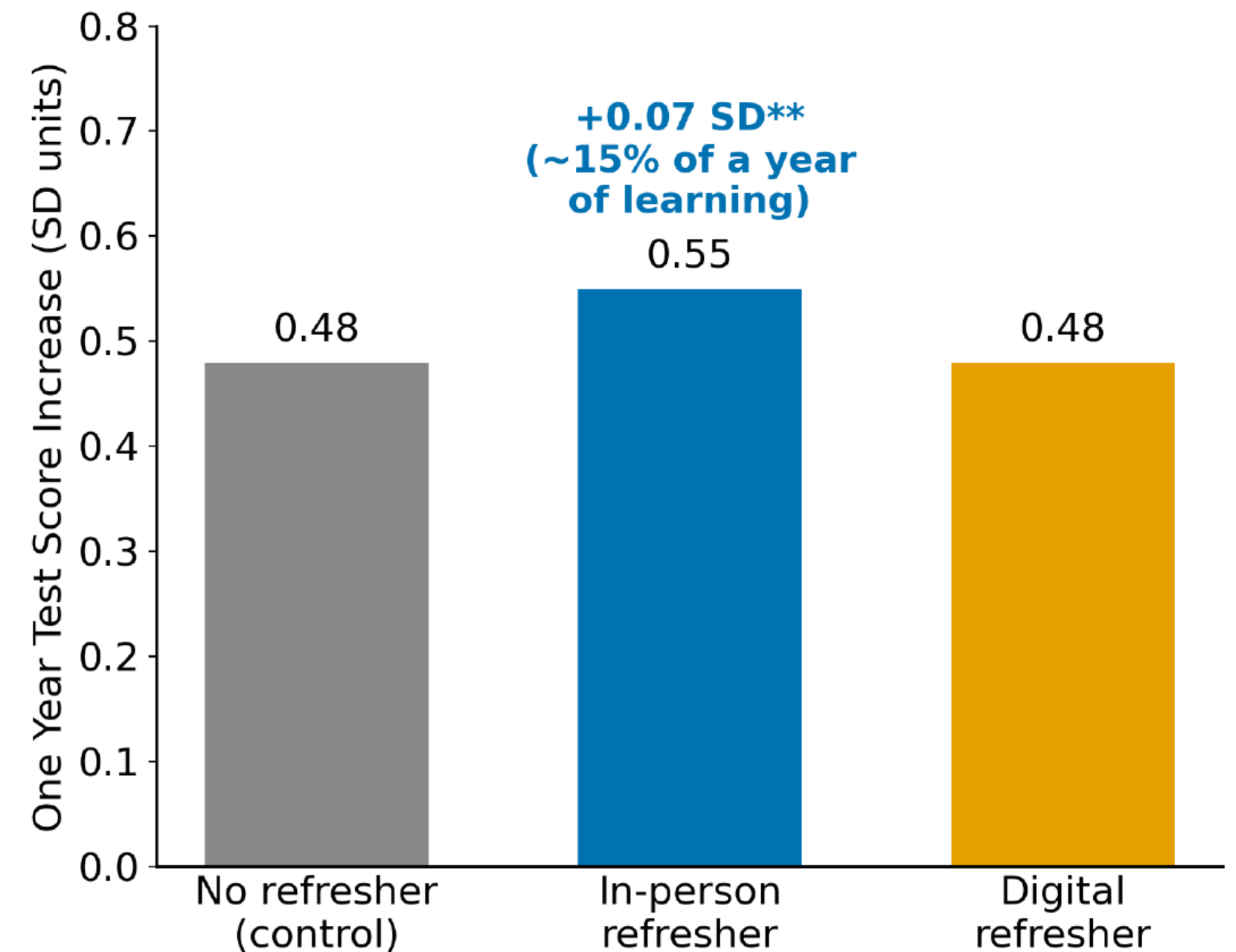
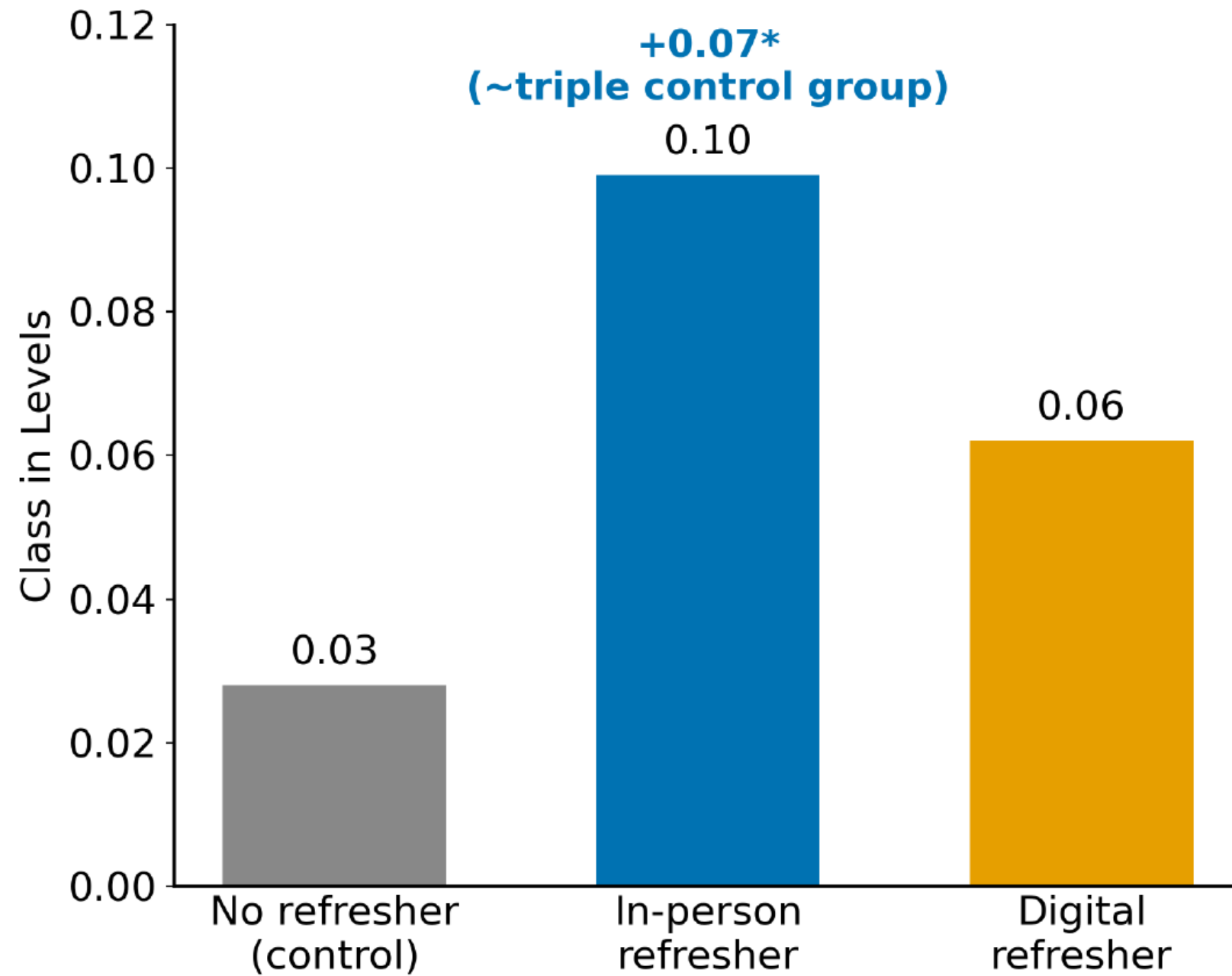


In person refresher training increased implementation...



and test scores

In-person training increased implementation and learning

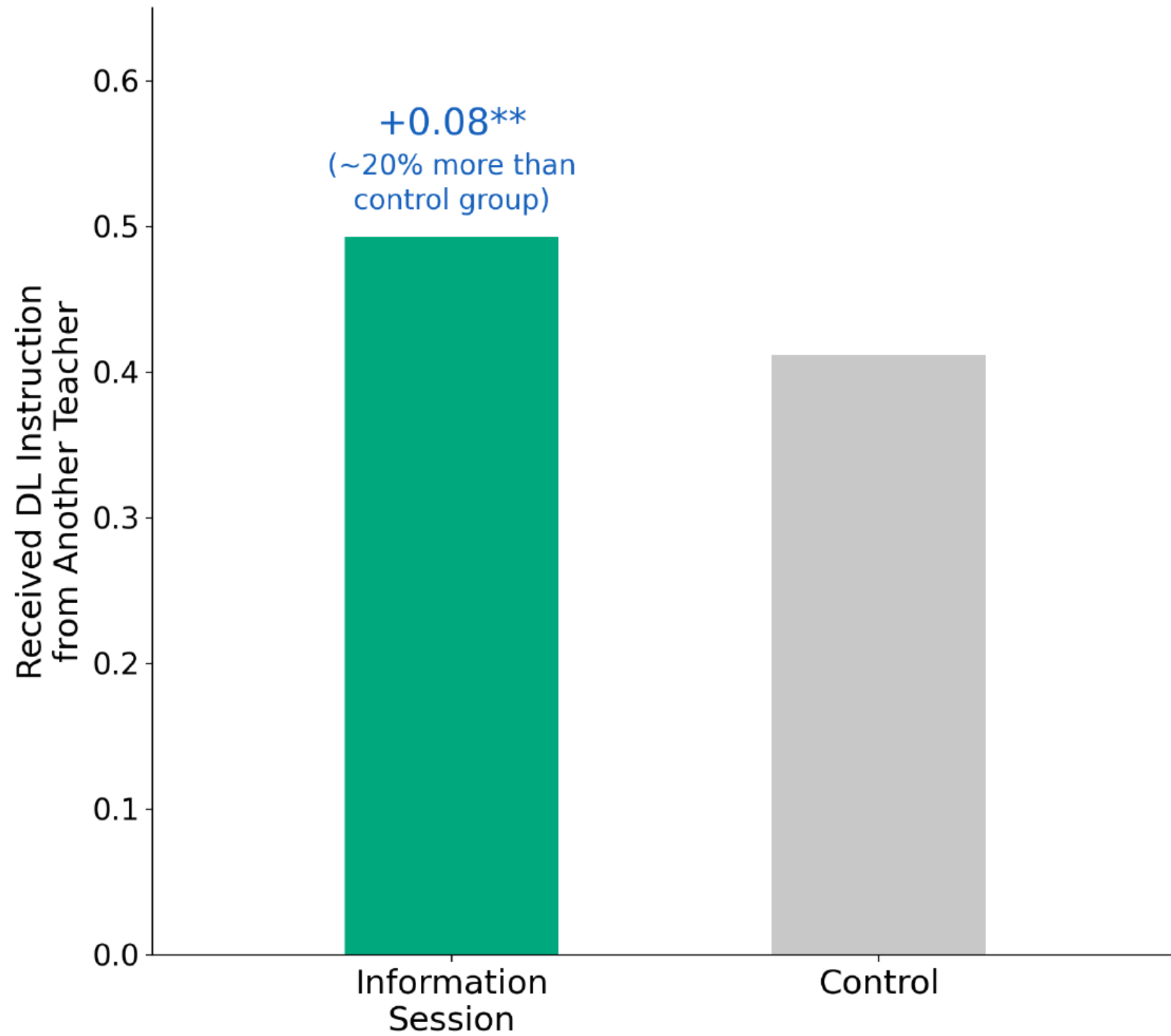


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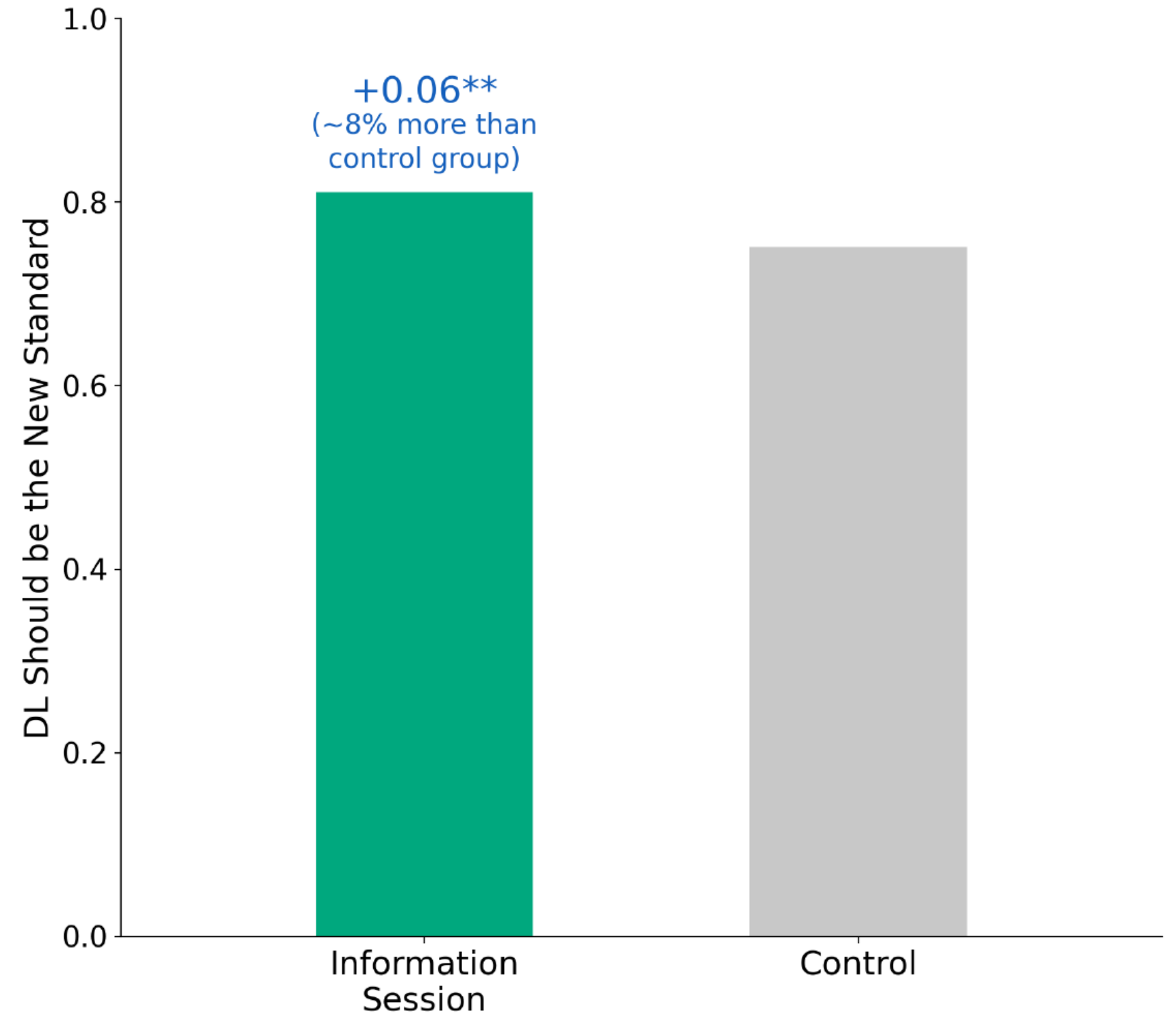
and test scores

*Caveat: very few teachers engaged with the digital training (even with an SMS nudge)

An information session...

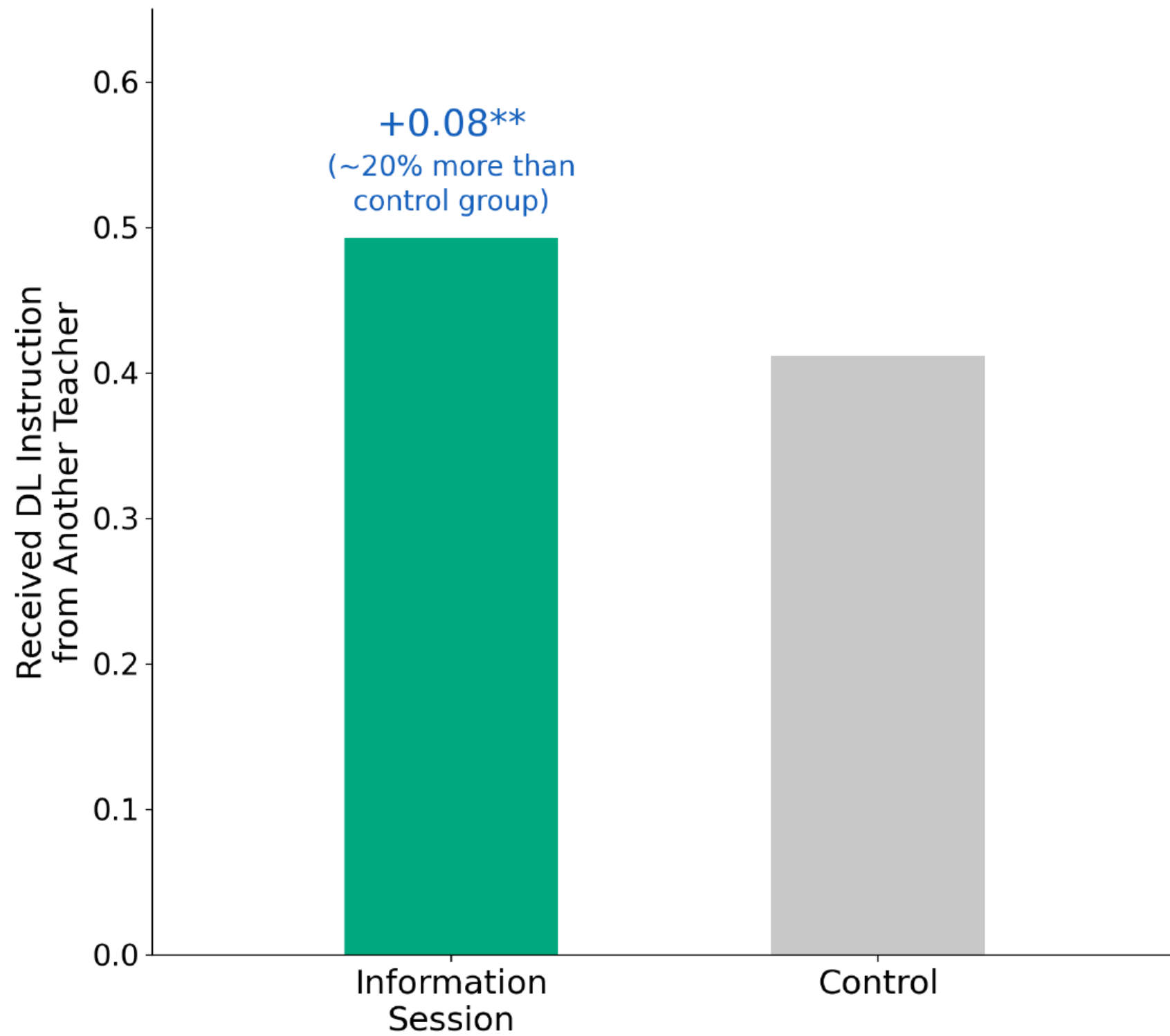


increased peer-to-peer learning

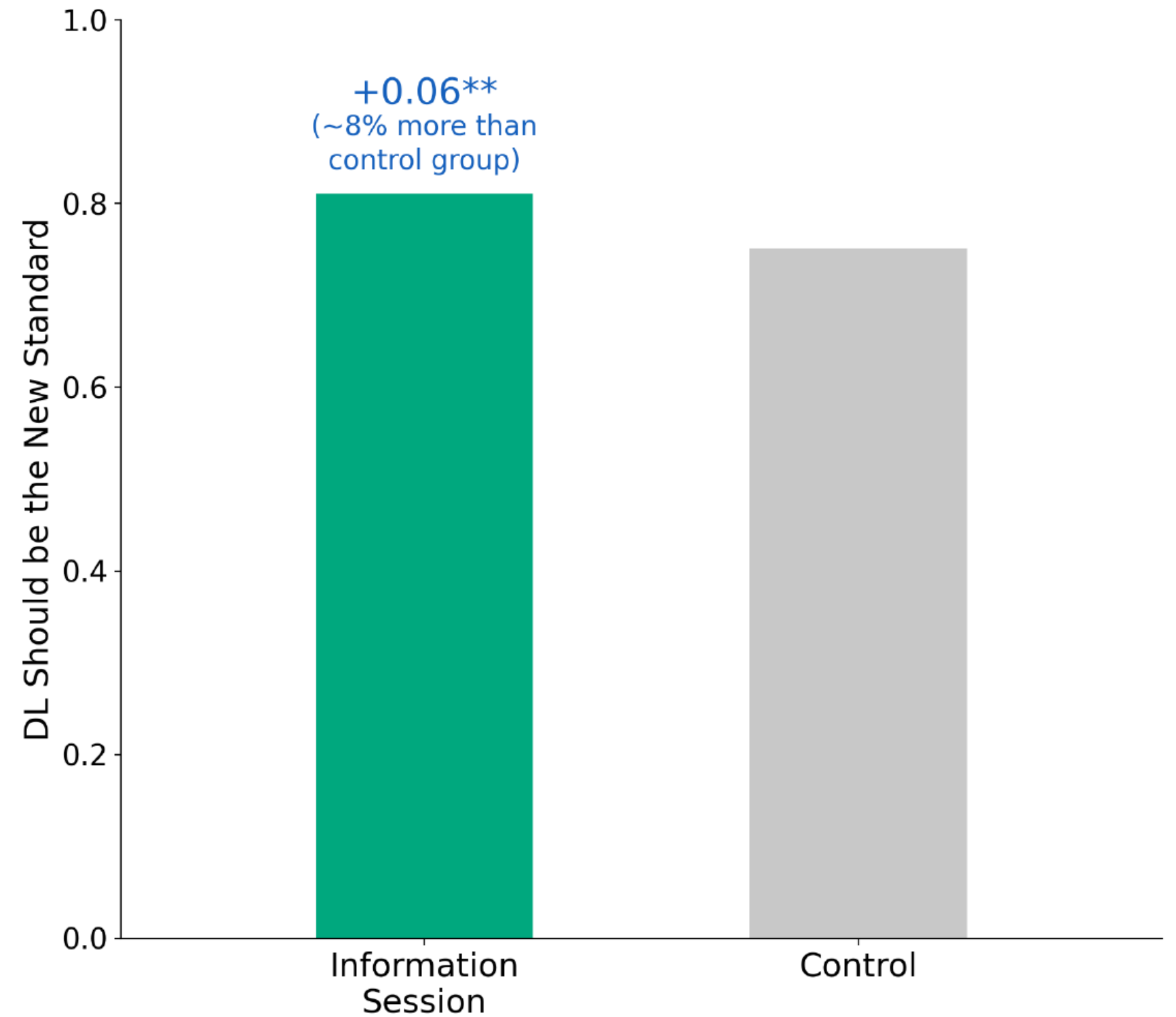


increased belief in importance of DL

An information session...



increased peer-to-peer learning



increased belief in importance of DL

But did not change classroom implementation 4 months later

Putting it All Together

Putting it together...

Based on two RCTs across 430 schools that had already received initial DL training...



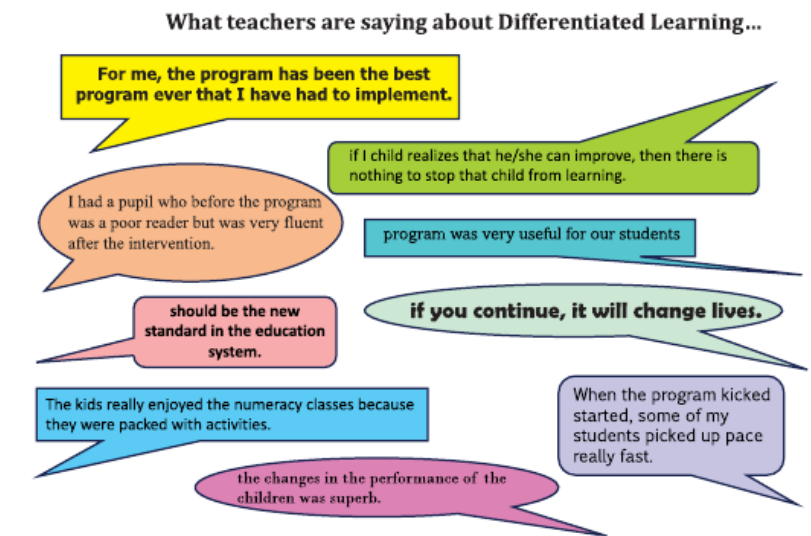
In person training

- Increased implementation and test scores



Digital training

- Very low take-up, no change in implementation



Information session

- Raised awareness, but not sufficient support

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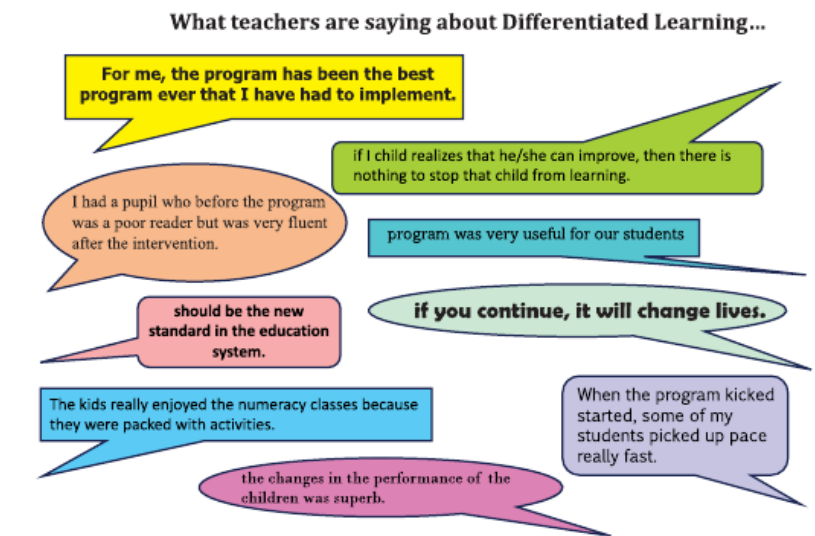
In person training

- Increased implementation and test scores
- Teachers need additional support to implement consistently, beyond optional digital training, signals, reminders, and elucidation of benefits
- Replicating the “magic” of in person likely requires a bundle of other activities



Digital training

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Information session

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Thank you!

This would not have been possible without the support of our champions at Ghana Education Services and Innovations for Poverty Action, Ghana (especially Henry Atimone)

Additional questions/comments:

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