

Project Summary

This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of StepsWeb in improving literacy skills, including spelling, reading fluency and comprehension. The study will also gather feedback from the schools regarding implementation of the StepsWeb program. Results and methodology will be evaluated and reported by a specialist team from Monash University.

Target Audience

The study will involve students in Years 4–8, ideally across whole year-groups. Whole-class participation is also feasible, including medium and high-need students.

Student Classification

Participants will be classified according to a four-tier intervention model, ensuring that progress is assessed across varying levels of need. More information on this model can be found on our [Remedial Learners webpage](#).

Teacher Training and Support

Full training will be provided, including initial Zoom training and ongoing professional development and educational/technical support. StepsWeb will provide free access to the online StepsWeb platform, plus supporting workbook and specialist teaching resources for high-need students.



Methodology

The study will run for 22 weeks in total, including both pre- and post-testing, starting in Term 2. Key elements include:

- **Pre-Assessment (one week):** Students will complete baseline assessments. This will include the StepsWeb online spelling and visual recognition tests, plus DIBELS Maze (reading comprehension).
- **Intervention Period (20 weeks):** Students will complete individualised Weekly Goals on StepsWeb in class or at home. High-need students will receive additional small-group teaching using the StepsWeb workbook and activity materials.
- **Post-Assessment (one week):** At the end of the trial, students will be re-tested to measure progress. Teachers will be asked to provide their own observations and feedback.

Assessment Tools

- **Spelling Test:** Online StepsWeb test, which is normed against the South Australian Spelling Test.
- **Visual Recognition Test:** Online StepsWeb test which analyses a student's progress towards genuine reading fluency. Learn more on our [Visual Recognition Test webpage](#).
- **DIBELS MAZE:** Reading comprehension test administered by the teacher.
- **DIBELS Oral Reading Fluency:** Administered by the teacher.

Expected Outcome

The study aims to produce a university assessed report demonstrating whole-class progress using StepsWeb in Australia.

These results are expected to align with previous [NZ studies involving whole-classes](#).

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