CENTER ON INSTRUCTION

CAPACITY BUILDING INDICATORS & DISSEMINATION STRATEGIES

A Synopsis of Writing Next: Effective Strategies to Improve Writing of Adolescents in Middle & High Schools

Description: This synopsis distills the findings reported in *Writing Next: Effective Strategies to Improve Writing of Adolescents in Middle & High Schools*, a meta-analysis of 133 studies from 1964 to 2005 with special attention to results with students who had learning disabilities. It identifies 11 instructional strategies, listed in decreasing order of effect size.

Information Level: intermediate

Intended Audience for Internal Knowledge Development:
State: policy, licensure, grants
District: policy, planning
School: literacy plan

To expand RCCs' capacity, this activity or resource:	
Raises awareness of new developments in fields important to states' work.	This synopsis summarizes research on strategies to improve writing of adolescent students, with special attention to results with students who had learning disabilities.
Helps the RCC help states frame a problem in new ways.	It ranks the effectiveness of instructional strategies to improve student writing skills.
Helps the RCC help states accomplish a goal or solve a problem.	It allows states to identify target areas for instructional change or improvement.
Helps the RCC help states improve or support an ongoing state program, policy, or practice.	It can inform existing state literacy plans to ensure writing instruction is research-based and receives instructional attention.
Helps the RCC help states plan or initiate a new state program, policy, or practice.	It can inform the development of state literacy plans to ensure writing instruction is research based and receives instructional attention.
Helps the RCC enhance states' ability to address NCLB/*ESEA requirements.	It deepens RCC staff knowledge of effective elements of writing.
Helps RCC improve states' ability to work with districts.	It is an accessible resource for busy state people.
Enables the RCC to carry out its work more effectively.	It offers more precise information about writing instruction.

Accompanying/Related Materials:

- A webinar, "Identifying and Implementing Key Components of Effective Writing Instruction" with author Steve Graham, was held on February 20, 2008, and is archived on the Center on Instruction website (http://centeroninstruction.org/pdevents.cfm)
- The PowerPoint presentation used during the webinar "Identifying and Implementing Key Components of Effective Writing Instruction" is also available for download from the Center on Instruction website.
- Graham, S., & Perin, D. (2007). *Writing next: Effective strategies to improve writing of adolescents in middle and high schools – A report to Carnegie Corporation of New York.* Washington, DC: Alliance for Excellent Education. A copy of the original document is available for download at http://www.carnegie.org/literacy/pdf/writingnext.pdf.

Suggested Dissemination Strategies:

- Disseminate synopsis and accompanying webinar to state departments of education.
- Use PowerPoint presentation from the webinar as the basis for professional development with state departments of education.
- Assist state departments of education with plans to disseminate the synopsis and accompanying materials to LEAs.

*ESEA – Elementary and Secondary Education Act

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