READ Act Literacy Updates Newsletter

COLORADO
Department of Education

January 2024

Struggling Readers Beyond 3rd Grade

Happy New Year! We hope the holiday break provided time to rest, reflect and rejuvenate.

In the years since the READ Act began, schools and districts across Colorado have worked hard to improve instructional practices in teaching reading. However, many students who are identified with a significant reading deficiency in the early grades continue to struggle with reading beyond third grade. Schools and educators across the state are asking a similar question: "How do we help struggling readers in grades 4-12?"

In this edition of the READ Act Literacy Updates Newsletter, we are highlighting resources that address reading instruction and assessment for older struggling readers.* Anyone who is looking for information, tools, or guidance when it comes to working with students beyond third grade will find something of value in this selection. Enjoy!

Not ready to dig in right now? Our newsletters are archived for easy access.
Click here (Better yet, bookmark it!) to access both current and past newsletters!

*Please note: the Colorado READ Act currently does not provide funding for students on READ plans beyond grade 3. The resources listed here are provided as a courtesy to support schools in implementing best practices for systems and structures in grades 4-12.

Effective Instruction for Older Struggling Readers

Providing Reading Interventions for Students in Grades 4-9
Institute of Education Sciences What Works Clearinghouse
Published in March 2022, this practice guide for educators distills the body of research into a series of instructional recommendations based on evidence for effectiveness. Each recommendation is accompanied by specific steps for carrying out the recommendation, notes potential obstacles for implementation and provides expert advice from the panel. The practice guide provides not only instructional guidance, but also key information that can support schools and teachers to analyze current programing and practices within their system for older struggling readers.

Effective Instruction for Adolescent Struggling Readers - Second Edition
Center on Instruction (centeroninstruction.org)
This suite of resources focused on instruction and intervention for readers who struggle beyond the elementary grades includes several resources, including a meta-analysis, practice briefs, professional development modules and more.

Secondary Reading - Implementing High-Leverage Practices | 2022 Literacy Symposium
PaTTAN

[READ Plan Guidance for Students in Grades 4-12](#)
Colorado Department of Education
The Colorado READ Act requires that students identified as having a significant reading deficiency in any grades K-3 remain on a READ plan until reaching grade level reading competency. This webpage was created to answer questions and provide supportive resources for schools supporting students on READ plans in grades 4-12.

Assessments and Systems for Older Struggling Readers

[Screening for Reading Problems in Grades 4 Through 12 | RTI Action Network](#)
RTI Action Network (rtinetwork.org)
Schools frequently ask what assessments they can use for assessing reading in the upper grades. This article provides helpful information for schools or teachers who wish to provide appropriate reading instruction, implement a screening process to identify struggling readers and identify the right assessments to use in this process. The article includes examples of assessment measures that can be used to identify specific reading problems.

[Assessments to Guide Adolescent Literacy Instruction](#)
Center on Instruction (centeroninstruction.org)
Another useful resource from the Center on Instruction is this guide focused on assessments for adolescent literacy. Its contents include a comprehensive system for adolescent literacy, formative assessments to guide instruction and challenges to using assessments for instruction with adolescents.

[RTI in Secondary Schools: Is It on Your Radar Screen?](#)
RTI Action Network (RTInetwork.org)
With many students continuing to struggle with reading beyond third grade, RTI in middle school and secondary settings can provide a supportive safety net when implemented well. This article explores the opportunities and challenges of implementing RTI in secondary schools, as well as myths about RTI that get in the way.

CDE Updates

[Science of Reading Literacy Series](#)
The Elementary Literacy and School Readiness office at CDE is developing a series of turnkey professional development options for districts to use to support implementation of evidence-based practices in the Science of Reading. The Science of Reading Literacy Series begins with a focus on seven instructional routines that address each of the components of literacy and oral language. Check it out!

[Teaching and Learning Colab – May 29-30 in Sterling, CO](#)
In cooperation with the Northeast BOCES and Northeastern Junior College, the 2024 Teaching and Learning CoLab will be held in Sterling on May 29-30, 2024. These events focus on teaching and learning and are designed for collaboration. Registration details will be forthcoming. Save the dates!

[Keys to Beginning Reading Face-to-Face Training – Summer Cohorts](#)
For educators who need to take READ Act required training in teaching reading before the next school year begins and wish to do so with a live instructor, CDE is offering two synchronous cohorts of Keys to Beginning Reading this summer in June and July. The face-to-face training, *Keys to Beginning Reading* by Keys to Literacy is organized into twelve modules that include 45 hours of content on scientifically and evidence-based practices in teaching reading.

Early Literacy Grant – Webinars and Office Hours

Is your school interested in applying for the next Early Literacy Grant (ELG) cohort? An application information webinar will be held on **Wednesday, January 31, 2024**. This webinar will go over application assistance and information on completing the Intent to Apply for the Comprehensive ELG application process for Cohort 7. You must register to attend here.

For More Information

Do you have a colleague with whom you would like to share these resources? Feel free to forward the newsletter or encourage them sign up to receive the newsletter here!

If you have general questions or need assistance, find our contact information here: http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/contactus

_____

Web Link Disclaimer

Because of their potential interest or usefulness to the education community and the general public, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) occasionally provides links from this site to external web sites. CDE attempts to monitor such links on a regular basis. However, the Department cannot be responsible for the content of any site external to its own. Further, by linking to other sites, CDE does not endorse any particular website host, product, practice, service, provider, or institution, nor does it necessarily endorse views expressed or facts presented on these sites. In addition, neither CDE nor any of its employees makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information linked to from this site.