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What's New?

New Website!

The Center on Instruction has recently redesigned its website at <http://centeroninstruction.org>. The content and structure remain basically the same; the redesign is intended to make the format more user-friendly. We welcome feedback to info@centeroninstruction.org.

Special Education

The Center on Instruction has released *A Synopsis of a Synthesis of Empirical Research on Teaching Mathematics to Low-Achieving Students*. This synopsis is based on the synthesis by Baker, Gersten, and Lee (2002) of findings from 28 years of research on interventions for struggling math students. The Center on Instruction's synopsis highlights the key findings from this synthesis and outlines recommendations for practice that follow from the findings. The synthesis is available for download at <http://www.centeroninstruction.org/files/BakerGerstenLee2002.pdf>. The synopsis is available for download at <http://www.centeroninstruction.org/files/COI%20SPED%20synopsis.pdf>.

Regional Comprehensive Centers staff are invited to a WebEx discussion of this synthesis by authors Baker and Gersten to be held on September 14th. More information regarding the WebEx will be sent to Comprehensive Centers directors and liaisons in the near future.

The Center on Instruction has released *Interventions for Adolescent Struggling Readers: A Meta-Analysis with Implications for Practice*. Results of this meta-analysis provides guidance for intervening with adolescent struggling readers, outlining major implications for practice. The report focuses on interventions designed to improve students' use of reading comprehension strategies. It also considers the impact of interventions that target improved reading vocabulary, accurate decoding of unfamiliar words in text, and increased reading fluency. It is available for download at

<http://www.centeroninstruction.org/files/COI%20Struggling%20Readers.pdf>.

Supporting Teachers Who Are Implementing Student Progress Monitoring: A Guide for Administrators, a PowerPoint presentation at the National Center for Student Progress Monitoring 2006 Summer Institute, is now available on the Center on Instruction website. It discusses issues related to successfully implementing CBM (Curriculum-Based Measurement) at the school and district level, including administrative leadership and support for staff. It shows how to structure a CBM implementation process that includes and supports teachers as they implement this important practice, how CBM can fit within a Response to Intervention model, and how to support the implementation of CBM in classrooms that include students with disabilities and/or English Language Learners. The PowerPoint is available for downloading at http://www.centeroninstruction.org/files/PPT_Support.pdf. The accompanying handouts are also available for downloading at http://www.centeroninstruction.org/files/Handouts_Support.pdf.

The *IRIS Center for Faculty Enhancement: Response to Intervention Online Modules* series including modules 3 and 4 is now available through the Center on Instruction website. Module 3 includes components of high-quality reading instruction, how to integrate high-quality instruction into the RTI approach, and how teachers can increase student reading success in early grades. It can be accessed at http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/rti03_reading/chalcycle.htm.

Module 4 topics include preparing teachers to implement RTI, effectively implementing RTI components in each tier, and challenges for school professionals to consider when implementing RTI. It can be accessed at http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/rti04_alltogether/chalcycle.htm.

Data-Based Instructional Decision Making, a PowerPoint Presentation, is now available on the Center on Instruction website. It is intended for teachers who are currently implementing CBM (Curriculum-Based Measurement) in reading and/or math and for administrators who are supporting CBM implementation. Topics include interpreting CBM reading and math data, using the database to inform instructional decision making, and selecting research-validated interventions. It is available for download at http://www.centeroninstruction.org/files/DataBasedInstructionalDecisionMaking_powerpoint.pdf.

Reading--Adolescent Literacy

Evidence-Based Decisionmaking: Assessing Reading Across the Curriculum Interventions is now available through the Center on Instruction website. Part of the *Issues & Answers* series from the Fast Response Projects and developed by the Regional Education Laboratory Southeast at SERVE Center, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, this 67-page report describes an investigation of adolescent literacy initiatives in seven states, analysis of a sample of interventions to improve literacy outcomes, and guidance for matching interventions to specific school needs. It is downloadable at http://centeroninstruction.org/files/REL_2007-Evidence-based%20decisionmaking%20%20assessing%20reading%20across%20the%20curriculum%20interventions.pdf.

Other

Professional Development: ELL Conference October 1-2, 2007

CREATE (Center for Research on the Educational Achievement and Teaching of English Language Learners) is sponsoring a conference October 1-2, 2007, at the Doubletree Hotel in Chicago-Oak Brook, IL. Its featured speakers include CREATE researchers and other experts in the field, including Diane August, Alison Bailey, Jana Echevarria, Doug Fisher, David Francis, Elfrieda Hiebert, Michael Klentschy, Okhee Lee, Sylvia Linan-Thompson, Mary Schleppegrell, Deborah Short, Catherine Snow, Guadalupe Valdes, Sharon Vaughn, and Aida Walqui. For more information about the conference, visit http://www.cal.org/projects/create_announcements.html.

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The Center on Instruction is one of five content centers to support the regional comprehensive centers in providing technical assistance to SEAs and districts/schools in need of improvement. The goal of COI is to supply much of the research-based information, products, guidance, analyses, and knowledge on instruction in reading, mathematics, science, special education, and English language learning that Regional Comprehensive Centers use when working with States.

Please send any suggestions or comments regarding our E-Newsletter to info@centeroninstruction.org. We would love to hear from you!

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