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### Special Education

A new component of the "Effective Instruction for Adolescent Struggling Readers" is now available for download on the COI website ([http://centeroninstruction.org/resources.cfm?category=reading&subcategory=materials&grade\\_start=0&grade\\_end=12#153](http://centeroninstruction.org/resources.cfm?category=reading&subcategory=materials&grade_start=0&grade_end=12#153)).

A professional development module consisting of a PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes and a Facilitator's Guide enhances the previously released meta-analysis and practice brief on the subject. This suite of resources is designed to guide instruction for adolescent struggling readers, particularly secondary interventions within the general education context. Its purpose is to advance the knowledge of technical assistance providers working with state departments of education and local education agencies concerning reading-related issues for students with reading difficulties and learning disabilities. The collection enhances understanding of selected research-based instructional practices associated with positive effects for adolescent struggling readers and provides a professional development tool to train facilitators on how to implement these research-based practices.

The meta-analysis (Interventions for Adolescent Struggling Readers: A Meta-Analysis with Implications for Practice) summarizes aspects of recent research on reading instruction for adolescent struggling readers, synthesizes research findings to determine the relative effectiveness of interventions, and outlines the implications of these findings for practice. It focuses on interventions designed to improve students' use of reading comprehension strategies, reading vocabulary, accurate decoding of unfamiliar words in text, and increased reading fluency.

The practice brief (Effective Instruction for Adolescent Struggling Readers: A Practice Brief) takes the meta-analysis a step further and focuses on the implications of this research for educators and decision-makers working in the field. It addresses the five reading components (word study, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and motivation), provides comparisons of successful and struggling readers behaviors, and describes effective school-based instructional practices.

Finally, the professional development module includes a PowerPoint presentation and a Facilitator's Guide that explains options for delivering the module in a one-day (appropriate for teachers, administrators, and district or state staff with advanced knowledge of reading in the upper grades) or two-day format (appropriate for those with some or little knowledge of effective reading instruction for adolescents and limited exposure to research in the field),

individually or in collaboration with other facilitators. NOTE: In order to see the Speaker's Notes on the PowerPoint presentation (depending on the web browser you are using), you may have to "save" the file to your computer.

These resources align with another Center on Instruction publication, Academic Literacy Instruction for Adolescents: A Guidance Document from the Center on Instruction (Torgesen et al., 2007).

## English Language Learning

The Center on Instruction ELL Strand hosted a training-of-trainers workshop May 29-30, 2008, in Houston, Texas to provide Regional Comprehensive Center staff and state personnel with current research and instructional strategies related to language development and reading interventions for ELLs with and without disabilities. The workshop centered on the use of two soon-to-be-released COI products: a training module in language development and a guidance document on teaching reading interventions to ELLs with and without disabilities. The event provided participants with content as well as activities that can be used in future professional development meetings with teachers and school administrators. The PowerPoint presentations from the meeting are available on the COI website (<http://centeroninstruction.org/pdevents.cfm>). NOTE: In order to see the Speaker's Notes on the PowerPoint presentations (depending on the web browser you are using), you may have to "save" the file to your computer.

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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 [apenfold@rmcres.com](mailto:apenfold@rmcres.com). We would love to hear from you!

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