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## **What's New?**

### **A New Partner!**

The Center on Instruction is pleased to announce the addition of Horizon Research, Inc. to its partnership. Horizon will lead the Science Strand activities. Dr. Iris Weiss, President of the Chapel Hill, NC, will direct the COI Science Strand and Dr. Joan Pasley will serve as Deputy Director. They look forward to supporting the Regional Comprehensive Centers in the area of science.

### **Year 3 Work Plan**

The Center on Instruction's Year 3 Work Plan is now posted on the COI website at <http://centeroninstruction.org/projectscope.cfm>.

## **Reading**

*Teaching All Students to Read in Elementary School: A Guide for Principals* has just been released by the Center on Instruction. This "quick start" guide for elementary school-level instructional leaders is based on scientific research on reading and reading instruction as well as on studies of successful schools and interviews with successful principals. It includes critical elements of an effective reading program in elementary school, critical tasks for principals as literacy leaders, and special considerations for reading instruction after third grade. It is available for download at <http://centeroninstruction.org/files/Principals%20Guide%20Elementary.pdf>.

*Improving Literacy Instruction in Middle and High Schools: A Guide for Principals* has just been released by the Center on Instruction. This "quick start" guide for principals of both middle and high schools identifies three goals for secondary school literacy initiatives and provides elements of instruction required to meet these goals. It then outlines the critical elements of a school-level literacy action plan. It is available for download at <http://centeroninstruction.org/files/Principal%20s%20Guide%20Secondary.pdf>.

## **Math**

*Curriculum-Based Measurement in Mathematics: An Evidence-Based Formative Assessment Procedure* has just been released by the Center on Instruction. This report describes M-CBM (Mathematics Curriculum-Based Measurement) including a brief history, basic procedures, implications for practice, and further resources. It also reviews the research that supports the use

of M-CBM. It is available for download at  
<http://centeroninstruction.org/files/CBMeasurements.pdf>

### Answers to Your Questions.... in Reading

**Q:** (From a Regional Comprehensive Center) Do you know of any research to support heterogeneous vs. homogeneous grouping for reading centers?

**A:** We don't know of any formal research on this subject; however, the "best practice" recommendation points out homogeneous grouping is typically recommended for activities involved phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency, but heterogeneous groupings may work as well or better for vocabulary and comprehension activities.

A good resource is a chapter called *Grouping for Instruction* in the book "Differentiated Instruction: Grouping for Success" by Vickie Gibson and Jan Hasbrouck. Chapter 3 of this book discusses the criteria for picking which type of group:

- the skill taught or assessed;
- changes in student performance as data indicates that may necessitate regrouping;
- type of activity used; and
- resources (time, equipment, personnel).

It also lists some references within the text of the chapter that identify best practices for grouping, explicit and systematic instruction, selecting curriculum, monitoring progress and evaluating achievement (Farrell, Hancock & Smart, 2002; Fuchs, et al, 1997; Gersten, Vaughn, Deschler & Schiller, 1997; Hall, 2004; Moody, Vaughn & Schumm 1997; Vaughn, Hughes, Moody & Elbaum, 1998; Tomlinson & Eidson, 2003; Tyner, 2004).

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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](mailto:info@centeroninstruction.org). We would love to hear from you!

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