

STudent Achievement in Reading (STAR): Enhancing States' Capacity to Provide High Quality Evidence-based Reading Instruction

Background

For millions of low-skilled, less literate adults, evidence-based reading instruction (EBRI) offers an essential opportunity to attain the reading skills that will allow them to participate more fully in society, and transition successfully to further education and training. EBRI assists adult educators in selecting teaching and learning methods and materials that provide the greatest opportunities for such struggling adult readers' success. Comprehensive training and technical assistance are needed to help States scale up evidence-based reading practices effectively.

Overview

The Student Achievement in Reading (STAR) Project is comprehensive training and professional development to help adult basic education instructors use evidence-based reading instruction in the classroom, with intermediate-level learners. Delivered in partnership with States, each State selects several teachers and administrators to receive intensive training on diagnostic assessment practices, reading strategies, and the implementation of a data-driven change model. Technical assistance and coaching are provided to assist States and trainers maintain fidelity and disseminate the implementation of high quality evidence-based professional development, assessment, and instructional practices.

The project supports the expansion of the National STAR Training Network, serving national and State experts in reading instruction, State and federal policymakers, and practitioners. The project period is June 2011 to June 2014.

Project Milestones

- Establish online community of practice to support STAR-certified trainers.
- Disseminate quarterly STAR GAZER newsletter.
- Maintain and update online resource bank for STAR partners.
- Certify STAR trainers and track recertification efforts.
- Assist States in their periodic assessment of EBRI implementation plans and progress.

Outcomes and Products

- Comprehensive training and technical assistance for partner States.
- STAR training resources, tool kit, newsletters, and a help desk for partner States.
- Feasibility plan to consider technology-supported solutions for future implementation.

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