

Abstract Narrative

Title: Improving Literacy Outcomes for Beginning Readers with Disabilities

Type of Grant: Development **Absolute Priority:** AP3: Improving Academic Outcomes for

Students with Disabilities. **Brief Project Description:** Specifically the grant will support the

development and initial evaluation of an instructional model based on strong theory to improve

literacy outcomes for young students whose disabilities require them to receive their reading

instruction in restrictive settings. The goal of these instructional strategies will be to improve

student achievement to such a level that these students can be transitioned from restrictive

settings for their literacy learning to the classroom. We will present strong theory and a logic

model. **Summary of Project Objectives:** Our key project objectives are to: (1) develop an

instructional format based on strong literacy theory for children with disabilities who are placed

in restrictive environments for their beginning reading instruction; (2) provide training in the

lesson format to experienced literacy coaches who will in turn provide training to special

education teachers; (3) conduct an internal, natural variation study to identify which features

work best in concert to improve student's achievement levels; (4) prepare 136 Special Education

teachers to deliver the intervention and (5) conduct a rigorous outside project evaluation

including both experimental and qualitative methodologies. **Target Number of Students To Be**

Served in the Project: At least 1,024 students will be taught. **Special Project Features:** This

intervention will be substantially more effective than current practices which typically result in

students remaining in restrictive settings for their literacy instruction while the gap with their

peers continues to grow over time. **Partners:** Southwestern Schools, Ohio; Gahanna Schools,

Ohio; District One Spartanburg, SC, District Three Spartanburg, SC, Clemson University,

Georgia State University, Emporia University.