

Help your secondary students overcome the odds by implementing these five strategies in your school. Discover which of our secondary literacy solutions is right for you by scheduling a consultative meeting with one of our sales representatives.

directinstruction.com

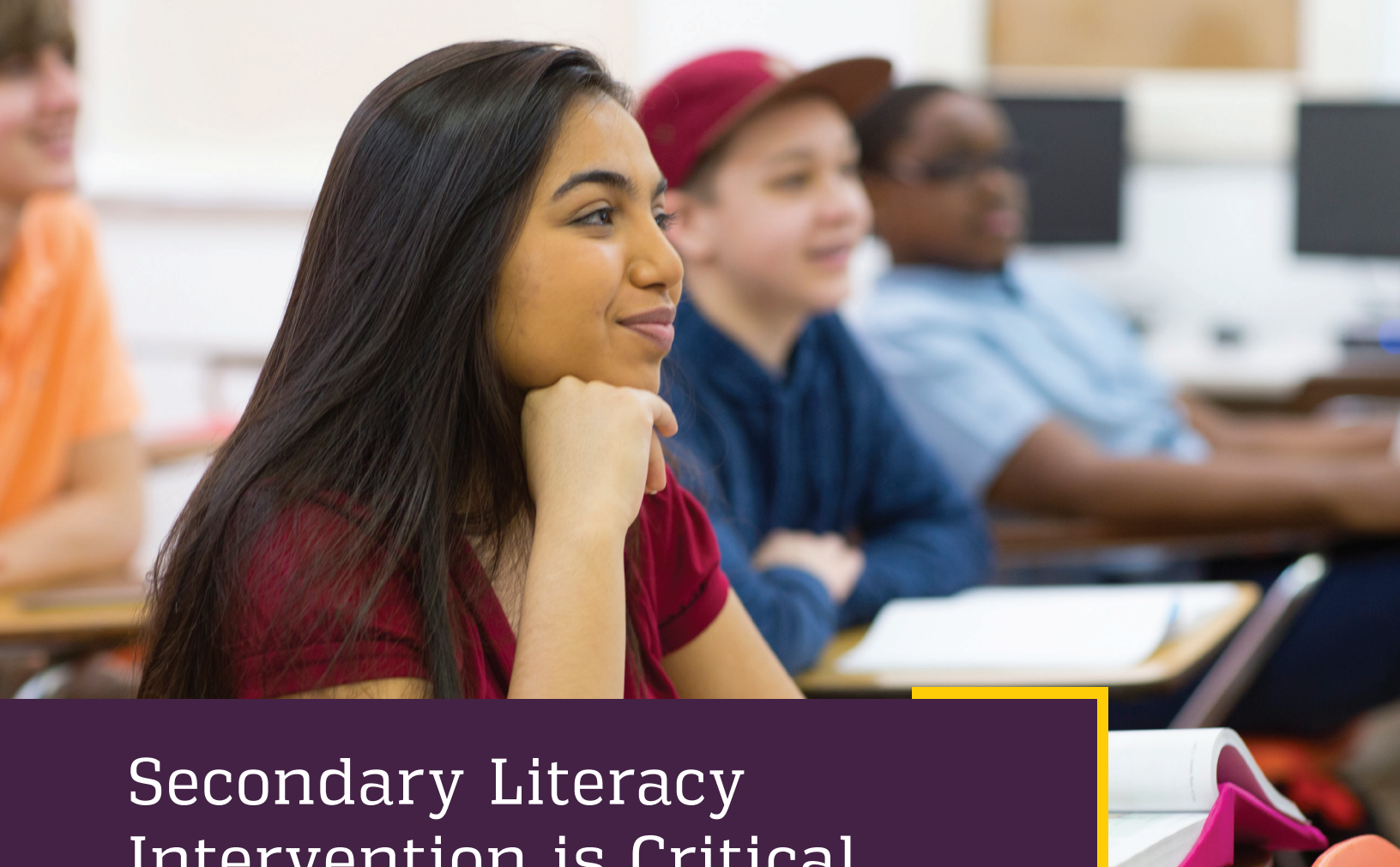


Because learning changes everything.™

DI18 W 13262

Secondary Literacy Intervention:

Five Strategies for Success



Secondary Literacy Intervention is Critical

Below-proficient readers have the highest risk of not finishing school.

Reading proficiency is the single most important predictor of high school graduation and career success, and today one-third of students cannot read at the level required to understand grade-level textbooks. Studies indicate that students who cannot read proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to leave school without a diploma than proficient readers.* On average, two-thirds of these students will end up in jail or on welfare.

However, it is not too late to intervene once students enter secondary education. It is critical that students who struggle to read grade-level texts receive literacy intervention in order to achieve educational and lifelong success. Educators can implement five strategies to remediate foundational literacy skills and accelerate achievement in reading and language arts as well as other content areas, thus improving graduation rates, reducing the chance of incarceration, and significantly increasing the earning potential of their students.

* Fiester, L. (2010). EARLY WARNING! Why reading by the end of third grade matters. Baltimore: The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Retrieved from <http://lib.post.ca.gov/Publications/Building%20a%20Career%20Pipeline%20Documents/EarlyWarningConfirmed.pdf>

Five Strategies for Success



Vocabulary

Explicit **vocabulary instruction** across all content areas familiarizes students with grade-level terminology, improves word recognition, and boosts comprehension.



Comprehension

Comprehension strategies like summarizing, asking and answering questions, paraphrasing, finding the main idea, and relating background knowledge help students to learn, recall, and synthesize information.



Discussion

Discussion expands upon comprehension, resolves misconceptions, and provides opportunities to explore text meaning, develop critical analysis skills, and utilize personal knowledge and experiences to support or challenge a conclusion.



Motivation & Engagement

Enhancing student **motivation** to read and their **engagement** in the learning process—by providing a supportive reading environment with high-interest relatable texts, encouragement to participate, and informative feedback—fosters improvement in secondary literacy.



Intensive Interventions

Intensive interventions accelerate development of the literacy skills that secondary students require to meet grade-level standards.



Vocabulary

Secondary students quickly become discouraged and disengaged when they frequently encounter unfamiliar words. Explicit vocabulary instruction across all grades and subject areas improves comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and achievement.

To provide effective vocabulary instruction for secondary students:

- Devote intentional instructional time to vocabulary.
- Offer repeated exposure to new vocabulary words and opportunities to practice.
- Teach strategies to help students acquire vocabulary independently, such as using context clues; components (prefixes, roots, suffixes) to break down words and derive meaning; and using reference materials like glossaries.



Comprehension

Many secondary students have never received direct and explicit instruction in the comprehension strategies that are essential to understanding and interpreting texts.

To provide direct and explicit instruction of comprehension strategies the teacher models a skill, guides student practice and provides feedback, and allows students to practice independently.

To teach comprehension:

- Carefully select on-level texts for modeling comprehension strategies.
- Model how to apply comprehension strategies to a variety of texts.
- Explain each strategy and its applications thoroughly while modeling it.



Discussion

Discussions provide opportunities to extend comprehension, remediate misconceptions, and explore new ideas. Students learn to analyze texts and critique or support conclusions and interpretations with reasoning, background knowledge, personal experience, and evidence from the text.

To maximize student engagement and improve comprehension during discussions:

- Select engaging texts and create compelling questions that drive conversation.
- Extend discussion with follow-up questions to create continuity between topics.
- Assign a task or offer a question to guide small group discussions.
- Establish a classroom discussion protocol with rules and expectations.



Motivation & Engagement

Boosting motivation while engaging students is critical to creating a culture of improvement and driving achievement. Secondary students need a supportive learning environment where mistakes become growth opportunities supported by consistent, informative feedback.

To increase motivation and engagement:

- Create specific, measurable, attainable goals across all subject areas that correspond to students' literacy goals.
- Promote autonomy in learning while offering appropriate scaffolding and support.
- Select relevant and relatable texts.
- Encourage reading engagement through inquiry, collaboration, and project-based learning.



Intensive Interventions

Some students will require intervention in addition to classroom instruction. Interventions should be intensive—characterized by direct, explicit instruction and significant scaffolding—and individualized to accelerate development of the necessary literacy skills to meet grade-level standards.

To implement intensive interventions effectively:

- Use screening assessments to identify students who require intensive individualized interventions and ongoing formal and informal assessments to monitor progress and pinpoint specific skill deficits.
- Provide explicit instruction to meet the individual needs of each student.
- Scale instructional time, scaffolding, and group size to match level of intensity to level of need.

How Our Solutions Utilize These Five Strategies



Vocabulary



Comprehension

Corrective Reading

Students learn 600 new vocabulary words and read a variety of passages, from narrative to expository, with increasingly sophisticated vocabulary.

With a focus on development of skills needed to construct meaning from text, students progress from basic reasoning all the way to higher-order thinking skills.

Read to Achieve

Word learning strategy and vocabulary strategy activities prepare students for the wide range of vocabulary in both content-area and narrative texts.

Strategies for before, during, and after reading combined with explicit instruction in decoding, word-learning strategies, fluency, and study skills construct a system to improve comprehension.

FUSION READING

Through a research-based 7-step method, students learn nearly 400 critical vocabulary words and analysis of those words' roots, prefixes and suffixes.

The design integrates strategies developed by the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning SIM learning strategies. Students are explicitly taught how to apply and adapt high-leverage strategies to their content area class materials.



REDBIRD
LANGUAGE ARTS & WRITING

Support comprehensive literacy intervention with *Redbird Language Arts & Writing*: a student-centered personalized learning model.



Discussion



Motivation & Engagement



Intensive Interventions

Students learn to communicate information and think critically by participating in group discussions after reading text.

Numerous student/teacher interactions in every lesson capture students' attention, while fast pacing maintains engagement. Frequent praise builds confidence and autonomy.

Frequent assessment and progress monitoring inform differentiated and explicit instruction of specific skills and strategies aimed at achieving student mastery through scaffolded support.

Sharing and comparing during routines encourages student collaboration.

Students gradually learn to use grade-level science and social studies curriculum and read authentic, high-interest, relatable fiction and nonfiction texts.

Teacher think-a-louds offer direct, strong instructional guidance and modeling of skills. Instructional sequence progresses from strong teacher support to student independence.

Teachers and students engage in a co-constructive partnership through discussion so that students have an opportunity to collaborate in whole group and with peers.

In *Possible Selves for Readers*, students create action plans for goal attainment and evaluate their hopes, dreams, and fears. In addition, students select novel studies that are relevant to their lives.

Classroom procedures create a positive, risk-taking learning environment based on student interest and instructional levels. Students develop an action plan to become a strategic reader.