

Providing Reading Interventions for Students in Grades 4-9

Practice Guide Overview

What Works
Clearinghouse™

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Recent research has identified strategies that have the potential to improve reading among students in grades 4-9 with reading difficulties. In collaboration with expert panelists, the What Works Clearinghouse™ (WWC) distilled that research into practical recommendations educators can use when providing reading interventions. This guide details four evidence-based practices designed to be used by special educators, general education teachers, reading specialists and coaches, administrators, and parents.

Recommendations in this practice guide:

1. Build students' decoding skills so they can read complex multisyllabic words.
Strong Level of Evidence
2. Provide purposeful fluency-building activities to help students read effortlessly.
Strong Level of Evidence
3. Routinely use a set of comprehension-building practices to help students make sense of the text.
Strong Level of Evidence
4. Provide students with opportunities to practice making sense of stretch text (i.e., challenging text) that will expose them to complex ideas and information.
Moderate Level of Evidence

For each recommendation, the practice guide discusses:

The Recommendation

Includes an actionable recommendation, a summary of the research evidence that supports the recommendation, and a description of how the recommended practice supports student learning.



Guidance

Explains how to carry out the recommendation, informed by studies that support the recommendation, as well as the panel's expertise and knowledge of strategies available to help implement the recommendation.



Potential Obstacles

Includes obstacles and advice from the expert panel about how to overcome them.



Tools and Resources

Offers practical information and examples to help practitioners implement the recommendation.



Readers are encouraged to use the advice provided in ways that work best in their context. Users of this practice guide may decide to implement some or all of the recommendations.

The complete practice guide can be accessed on the What Works Clearinghouse website: <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/PracticeGuide/29>.