

## Regional Educational Laboratory Southwest

# The Providing Reading Interventions for Students in Middle School (PRISMS) Toolkit to Support Evidence-Based Reading Interventions

## What is the PRISMS Toolkit?

The Providing Reading Interventions for Students in Middle School (PRISMS) Toolkit supports the effective implementation of the recommendations presented in the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) practice guide, [Providing Reading Interventions for Students in Grades 4–9](#). The toolkit includes resources and tools for educators who support students reading below grade level in grades 6–8.

The Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Southwest is leading the development and evaluation of the PRISMS Toolkit. During the development process, REL Southwest sought feedback from educators in Texas schools to ensure the toolkit is usable. The toolkit can be used by school and district administrators, reading interventionists, instructional coaches, special educators, multilingual learner specialists, and any other middle school educators who provide reading interventions. It can also be a helpful resource for middle school teachers who have students reading below grade level in their content-area classes.



## What does the practice guide recommend?

The WWC practice guide is a free resource for educators who provide reading interventions or those who oversee multitiered systems of support in reading. The practice guide offers four evidence-based recommendations rooted in two themes: (1) improving students' ability to read words accurately and automatically and (2) helping students to understand the text they read.



### Recommendation 1

Build students' decoding skills so they can read complex multisyllabic words.



### Recommendation 2

Provide purposeful fluency-building activities to help students read effortlessly.



### Recommendation 3

Routinely use a set of comprehension-building practices to help students make sense of the text.



### Recommendation 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.



**Toolkit development:**  
2023–2024

**Usability testing:**  
2024

**Evaluation study:**  
2025–2026

**Expected publication:**  
2027

## What is in the toolkit?

The toolkit includes the following resources and components to be used as part of a comprehensive professional learning package:

- Two **implementation tools** that can be used as a starting place for educators.

The **Educator Reflection Tool** provides an opportunity for teachers to reflect on how the steps are implemented in their classroom.

The **Educator Goal Setting Tool** helps teachers self-assess, monitor, and set goals for implementing the practice guide recommendations.



- Five online **professional learning modules** to develop teachers' knowledge of the practice guide recommendations and support classroom implementation. Each module addresses one or more of the practice guide recommendations and includes practical strategies, videos examples, and reflection questions.

### Module 1

Building students' decoding skills so they can read complex multisyllabic words.

### Module 2

Providing purposeful fluency-building activities to help students read effortlessly.

### Module 3

Comprehension practices: Building world and word knowledge.

### Module 4

Comprehension practices: Questioning and using a gist routine.

### Module 5

Comprehension practices: Monitoring comprehension and making sense of stretch text.

- A **facilitator guide** for nine in-person or virtual professional learning community (PLC) sessions. The PLCs will support teams of teachers to use the implementation tools, to review what they learned in the professional learning modules, and to plan for implementation at their school.
- Four **leader and administrator resources** to help school and district leaders ensure effective and sustainable implementation of the practice guide recommendations. These resources include:



An **implementation guide** with step-by-step instructions for using the toolkit resources.



An **infographic** providing an overview of the toolkit resources.



A **walkthrough tool** for coaches and leaders to observe and provide feedback to teachers on their implementation of the practice guide recommendations.



A **planning tool** for assessing school readiness to implement reading interventions using the practice guide recommendations.

## Related Resources



- REL Southwest blog:** [Improving literacy achievement in middle school: A toolkit for providing evidence-based reading interventions](#)
- WWC educator practice guide:** [Providing Reading Interventions for Students in Grades 4–9](#)

## Learn more



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