



STudent Achievement in Reading

ADULT LEARNERS READING TO ACHIEVE

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) is committed to improving the quality of reading instruction in adult basic education (ABE) classrooms. STudent Achievement in Reading (STAR) was created to assist states and local programs in making systemic and instructional changes required to improve the reading achievement of intermediate-level adult learners (GLE 4.0-8.9) in ABE. STAR provides teachers and administrators with Web-based tools that translate reading research into practice and high quality training and technical assistance to build capacity for reading reform. This means supporting state leaders, school administrators, and teachers in making reading a priority.

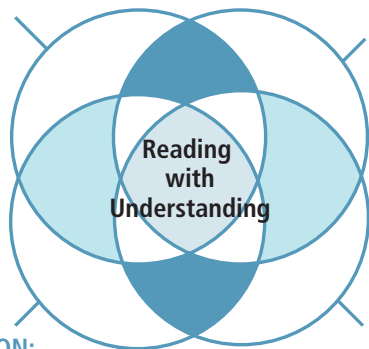
Given the multiple demands in adult learners' lives, it is important to use instructional methods that work. Keeping adult learners' needs in mind, STAR focuses on implementing evidence-based practices to provide adults with the reading skills they need to achieve their goals in school, the workplace, and their daily lives.

ALPHABETICS:

The process that readers use to identify words

VOCABULARY:

The body of words whose meanings a person knows and understands



COMPREHENSION:

The process and product of understanding connected text

FLUENCY:

The ability to read with efficiency and ease

WHAT WORKS IN TEACHING ADULTS TO READ

A growing body of research points to what can work in teaching adults to read. Evidence-based reading instruction (EBRI) integrates findings from the best available empirical research with professional wisdom to maximize the impact of classroom practice on learners' reading achievement. EBRI requires teachers to use diagnostic assessments to identify the individual strengths and weaknesses of their learners and to target reading instruction accordingly. Teachers help students improve their skills in the key components of reading by explaining new concepts, modeling strategies, and providing many opportunities for learners to practice.

TOOLS TO IMPROVE READING OUTCOMES FOR INTERMEDIATE-LEVEL LEARNERS

The STAR Tool Kit - a comprehensive package of instructional and assessment materials, related training, and on-site and virtual technical assistance - was pilot-tested in six states and is now available to all states and local programs through the National STAR Training Network.

The STAR Tool Kit offers a range of resources that are useful to both teachers and administrators, such as:

- 1 A multimedia introduction to the key components of evidence-based reading instruction;
- 2 Tips, techniques and tools for conducting diagnostic assessments;
- 3 Strategies and activities for teaching alphabets, vocabulary, fluency and text comprehension;
- 4 Guidance on how to plan instruction to meet individual learners' reading needs; and
- 5 Planning tools and strategies to prepare your organization for success with implementing EBRI.

“Introducing the science of how to teach reading to adults means that teachers can be more efficient and more targeted in how they're instructing adults so that they can meet their goals and move on to the next step that they need to take in their lives.”

- Cheryl Keenan,
Director of Adult Education and Literacy
U.S. Department of Education

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“ The more you focus on reading, the more you learn to love to read and the more you can do. ”

– Arne Duncan,
U.S. Secretary of Education

STAR TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The STAR Network offers a number of training and technical assistance options that can be tailored to the needs of your state and local programs. STAR training, and technical assistance packages are available for states to purchase.

STAR training and technical assistance are designed to support teachers and administrators in acquiring the knowledge and skills required to successfully implement EBRI in their classrooms and programs. Expert trainers offer explicit instruction in new skills and concepts. All training modules are designed to ensure that participants have ample opportunity to practice and reflect on what they have learned in a supportive and collegial setting. STAR leverages technology and the expert knowledge of its national training cadre to deliver on-demand virtual and on-site technical assistance. STAR technical assistance options include:

- Web-based chats
- Conference calls with expert trainers
- Site visits and classroom observations
- Instructional demonstration videos

STAR National Training and Technical Assistance Package

A training that includes training institutes, online learning and site-based technical assistance. This package is available to any state or partnership of two or more states.

STAR Trainer Certification Package

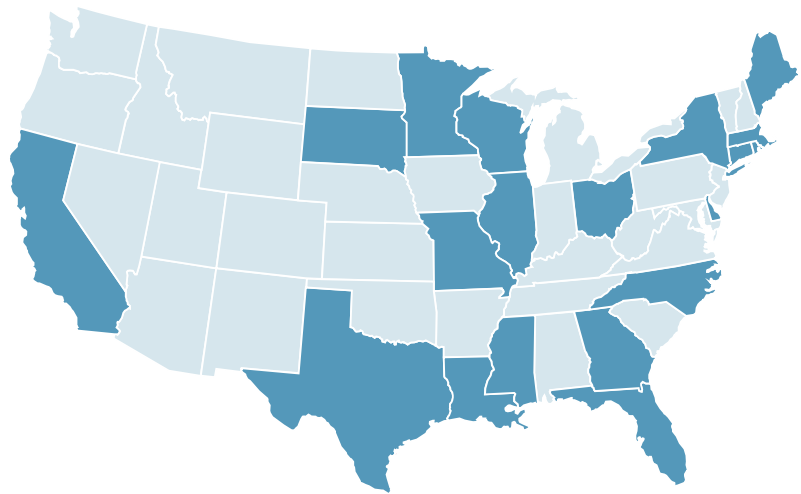
A year long certification process that enables partner states to develop certified trainers equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to provide STAR training and technical assistance to new and existing STAR programs. This package is available to STAR partner states.

Partner State Expansion Package

A co-training that utilizes a state's certified trainer(s) and one National Cadre trainer to help partner states expand STAR further and faster across more programs at a reduced cost. This package is available to STAR partner states.

STAR Coaching Package

A trainer support for STAR Trainer Certification Candidates through onsite coaching, co-training and technical assistance, as well as STAR Training and Technical Assistance for new participants at a reduced cost. This package is available to STAR partner states.



STAR Partner States

California	Illinois	Missouri	Rhode Island
Connecticut	Louisiana	Mississippi	South Dakota
Delaware	Maine	New York	Texas
Florida	Massachusetts	North Carolina	Wisconsin
Georgia	Minnesota	Ohio	

TO LEARN MORE

To learn more about EBRI and how STAR can help you improve outcomes for your intermediate-level adult learners, contact Projectstar@dtihq.com.

