



STAR Student Achievement in Reading

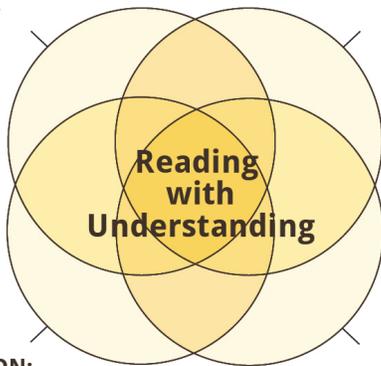
ADULT LEARNERS READING TO ACHIEVE

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) 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

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 - is 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.

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.

“ 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

