

Adapted from the Connecticut State Department of Education Evidence-Based Practice Guide Reading

DRAFT

Under ESSA, there are four tiers, or levels, of evidence. Throughout this guide, the level indicator key is used to identify the evidence levels at strong to moderate levels as a quick glance.

Tier	Evidence Level	Evidence Descriptor
1	Strong Evidence	Supported by one or more well-designed and well-implemented randomized control experimental studies.
2	Moderate Evidence	Supported by one or more well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental studies.

Interventions applied under Title I, Section 1003 (School Improvement) are required to have strong, moderate, or promising evidence (Tiers 1-3) to support them. All other programs under Titles I-IV can rely on Tiers 1-4.

Suggested citation: Connecticut State Department of Education. (2018). CSDE and ESSA Evidence-Based Spending Guide.

Systems

The Connecticut State Department of Education adheres to research supporting schoolwide, systemic, multi-tiered approaches to reading instruction/intervention, screening, progress monitoring, and fidelity of implementation.

Evidence-based practice and rationale	Grade band	Evidence level and source
<p>Implement a specific set of core in-school strategies and practices to support reading.</p> <p><i>Implementation of a set of specific instructional and classroom practices is effective in closing the reading achievement gap. Strategies include, but are not limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>direct, explicit instruction in phonics, vocabulary, and fluency in the primary grades;</i> • <i>explicit instruction in reading comprehension strategies in the upper grades (e.g., inferencing, questioning, and visualizing);</i> • <i>one-on-one tutoring in phonics, especially when provided by teachers; and</i> • <i>explicit vocabulary instruction for English learners.</i> 	<p>PreK-3 4-5 6-8 9-12</p>	<p>Tier 1, Strong</p> <p>Source: School-based Strategies for Narrowing the Achievement Gap: February 2017.</p>
<p>Provide reading interventions (Tier 2).</p> <p><i>Students struggling with reading who are provided with interventions in word and pseudo-word reading, passage reading, fluency, and reading comprehension perform better than students who do not receive intervention.</i></p> <p>Note: <i>This review of research literature assessed the evidence base supporting reading interventions in grades 1-3 to improve reading outcomes for students who may not respond to typical classroom reading instruction.</i></p>	<p>1-3</p>	<p>Tier 1, Strong</p> <p>Source: Gersten, R., Newman-Gonchar, R. A., Haymond, K. S., & Dimino, J. (2017). What is the evidence base to support reading interventions for improving student outcomes in grades 1–3? (REL 2017–271). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Regional Educational Laboratory Southeast.</p>

Evidence-based practice and rationale	Grade band	Evidence level and source
<p>Focus on basic cognitive and linguistic processes, intervention, assessment, and professional development.</p> <p><i>To become successful readers, students at risk of reading difficulty and/or reading disability require support in basic cognitive and linguistic processes such as oral language skills and vocabulary, as well as interventions with increased intensity at kindergarten and grade 1. Other practices, such as universal screening, progress monitoring, and professional development in research-based instructional practices improve outcomes for these students.</i></p>	<p>PreK-3 4-5</p>	<p>Tier 1, Strong</p> <p>Source: Connor, C.M., Alberto, P.A., Compton, D.L., O’Connor, R.E. (2014). Improving Reading Outcomes for Students with or at Risk for Reading Disabilities: A Synthesis of the Contributions from the Institute of Education Sciences Research Centers (NCSE 2014-3000). Washington, DC: National Center for Special Education Research, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education.</p>
<p>Support English learners’ understanding of subject matter (i.e., history, science, literature) using specific practices.</p> <p><i>English learners require long-term, specific, explicit instruction in language development and reading skills. Effective practices include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>redesign all classes for explicit language development, with a focus on comprehension, vocabulary development, and advanced grammatical structures needed to comprehend and produce academic language; and</i> <p><i>design lessons around carefully structured language objectives for integrating subject matter content, focusing on content-related reading and writing skills.</i></p>	<p>6-8 9-12</p>	<p>Tier 1, Strong</p> <p>Source: Effective Interventions for Long-term English Learners (2017). Hanover Research.</p>

Instructional Practice

The Connecticut State Department of Education adheres to research that supports explicit instructional practices in critical literacy skills essential to the development of reading, regardless of reading approach or program.

Evidence-based practice and rationale	Grade band	Evidence level and source
<p>Design and provide specific and systematic phonemic awareness and phonics instruction.</p> <p><i>To become successful readers, all young students require:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>focused and explicit phonemic awareness instruction on one or two skills rather than a combination of three or more;</i> <i>phonemic awareness instruction in small groups rather than individually or in whole classroom settings; and</i> <i>systematic phonics instruction (a series of lessons versus intermittent instruction) to impact children’s growth in reading.</i> <p>Note: <i>The research panel identified these practices for students in grades K-2 only.</i></p>	K-2	<p>Tier 1, Strong</p> <p>Source: Langenberg, D. et al. (1999). National Reading Panel Report. [online] Accessed 6 May 2018.</p>
<p>Support learning outcomes for English learners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>to improve learning outcomes, English learners at the intermediate and/or middle school levels require the following instructional practices:</i> <i>formative assessments that measure English language phonological processing, letter knowledge, and word and text reading;</i> 	6-8	<p>Tier 1, Strong</p> <p>Source: Denton, C., Wexler, J., Vaughn, S., Bryan, D... (2008). Intervention Provided to Linguistically Diverse Middle School Students with Severe Reading Difficulties. Learning Disabilities Research & Practice, v23 n2 p79-89.</p>

Evidence-based practice and rationale	Grade band	Evidence level and source
<p>Support English learners' literacy instruction in grades 6-12.</p> <p><i>To improve learning outcomes, English learners in grades 6-12 benefit from the following instructional practices:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>explicit vocabulary instruction;</i> • <i>direct and explicit comprehension strategy instruction;</i> <i>and</i> <p><i>individualized interventions by trained literacy specialists</i></p>	<p>6-8</p> <p>9-12</p>	<p>Tier 1, Strong</p> <p>Source: Instructional Strategies to Support Underrepresented Students. (2017). Hanover Research.</p>
<p>Develop early literacy skills in K-3 students who lag behind their peers.</p> <p><i>Students in grades K-3 who are reading below grade level require a specific set of practices to improve reading outcomes. Practices include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>dedicated time each day for explicitly guiding students' reading activities; and</i> <i>dedicated time each day for targeted and purposeful instruction in one or more of the core elements of literacy foundations.</i> 	<p>K-3</p>	<p>Tier 2, Moderate</p> <p>Source: Early Skills and Predictors of Academic Success. (2016). Hanover Research.</p>

Evidence-based practice and rationale	Grade band	Evidence level and source
<p>Target language skills in prekindergarten and kindergarten.</p> <p><i>Early vocabulary development is a critical precursor to literacy achievement. Young students in PreK and Kindergarten benefit from the following practices:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>building vocabulary;</i> • <i>support in developing syntax; and</i> • <i>building discourse abilities.</i> <p>Note: <i>This research provides evidence for grades Pre K and Kindergarten in high poverty schools.</i></p>	PreK-K	<p>Tier 2, Moderate</p> <p>Source: Hemphill, L., Tivnan, T. (2008). The Importance of Early Vocabulary for Literacy Achievement in High-Poverty Schools. Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk (JESPAR). DOI: 10.1080/10824660802427710</p>
<p>Support learning outcomes for English learners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>to improve learning outcomes, English learners at the intermediate and/or middle school levels require the following instructional practices:</i> • <i>formative assessments that measure English language phonological processing, letter knowledge, and word and text reading;</i> 	6-8	<p>Tier 1, Strong</p> <p>Source: Denton, C., Wexler, J., Vaughn, S., Bryan, D... (2008). Intervention Provided to Linguistically Diverse Middle School Students with Severe Reading Difficulties. Learning Disabilities Research & Practice, v23 n2 p79-89.</p>

Evidence-based practice and rationale	Grade band	Evidence level and source
<p>Support English learners' literacy instruction in grades 6-12.</p> <p><i>To improve learning outcomes, English learners in grades 6-12 benefit from the following instructional practices:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>explicit vocabulary instruction;</i> • <i>direct and explicit comprehension strategy instruction;</i> • <i>and</i> • <i>individualized interventions by trained literacy specialists.</i> 	<p>6-8 9-12</p>	<p>Tier 1, Strong</p> <p>Source: Instructional Strategies to Support Underrepresented Students. (2017). Hanover Research.</p>
<p>Develop early literacy skills in K-3 students who lag behind their peers.</p> <p><i>Students in grades K-3 who are reading below grade level require a specific set of practices to improve reading outcomes. Practices include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>dedicated time each day for explicitly guiding students' reading activities; and</i> • <i>dedicated time each day for targeted and purposeful instruction in one or more of the core elements of literacy foundations.</i> 	<p>K-3</p>	<p>Tier 2, Moderate</p> <p>Source: Early Skills and Predictors of Academic Success. (2016). Hanover Research.</p>
<p>Target language skills in prekindergarten and kindergarten.</p> <p><i>Early vocabulary development is a critical precursor to literacy achievement. Young students in PreK and Kindergarten benefit from the following practices:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>building vocabulary;</i> • <i>support in developing syntax; and</i> • <i>building discourse abilities.</i> <p>Note: <i>This research provides evidence for grades Pre K and Kindergarten in high poverty schools.</i></p>	<p>PreK-K</p>	<p>Tier 2, Moderate</p> <p>Source: Hemphill, L., Tivnan, T. (2008). The Importance of Early Vocabulary for Literacy Achievement in High-Poverty Schools. Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk (JESPAR). DOI: 10.1080/10824660802427710</p>

Evidence-based practice and rationale	Grade band	Evidence level and source
<p>Provide reading instruction for special education adolescent readers.</p> <p><i>Adolescent readers who struggle with reading and/or receive special education services benefit from a specific set of instructional practices, including word study, fluency and vocabulary building, and reading comprehension strategies.</i></p>	<p>4-5 6-8</p>	<p>Tier 1, Strong</p> <p>Source: Scammacca, N., Roberts, G., Vaughn. S., Edmonds, M., Wexler, J., Reutebuch, C. K., & Torgesen, J. K. (2007), Interventions for adolescent struggling readers: A meta-analysis with implications for practice. Portsmouth, NH: RMC Research Corporation, Center on Instruction.</p>

Professional Learning

The Connecticut State Department of Education supports evidence-based models of teacher professional learning that increase teachers' expertise, thereby ensuring every student is taught by a highly effective teacher.

Evidence-based practice and rationale	Grade band	Evidence level and source
<p>Instructional coaching is an effective model of school-based professional development.</p> <p><i>The effects of instructional coaching are not thought to be immediate but transform pedagogy over time. (Grades K-6)</i></p>	K-6	<p>Tier 2, Moderate</p> <p>Source: Teemant, A. (2014). A Mixed-Methods Investigation of Instructional Coaching for Teachers of Diverse Learners. Urban Education, v49(5), pp. 574-604. DOI: 10.1177/0042085913481362.</p>
<p>Provide mentors for novice teachers.</p> <p><i>Reading achievement is higher among students taught by teachers with one to three years of experience who are mentored by retired teachers. (Grades 1-5)</i></p>	1-5	<p>Tier 2, Moderate</p> <p>Source: DeCesare, D., McClelland, A., & Randel, B. (2017). Impacts of the Retired Mentors for New Teachers program (REL 2017–225). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Regional Educational Laboratory Central.</p>

