

COLLABORATIVE CENTER FOR



DEVELOPMENT

Adolescent Literacy Toolkit

Blueprint for Implementation

Collaborative Center for Literacy Development

An Invitation

Greetings from the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development (CCLD). Established by the Kentucky legislature in 1998, CCLD serves as a clearinghouse for literacy research and professional development. In fulfilling its mission to improve literacy instruction and learning, CCLD is working toward providing relevant resources to middle and high school educators across the state. The accompanying *Adolescent Literacy Toolkit* is part of our effort to make current research and materials available to Kentucky's education community. The purpose of this toolkit is to raise awareness and to share key resources designed to improve literacy achievement for adolescent learners (grades 6-12).

The Blueprint

What is the Adolescent Literacy Toolkit?

The Toolkit can be used in middle and high schools to help make sound, research-based decisions about the integration of literacy in all content areas. The materials included may serve as a guide as schools and districts work to create and implement comprehensive literacy plans.

What is the purpose?

The Toolkit is designed to prompt dialogue, support professional development, and share information about interventions that are appropriate for adolescent learners.

Who should review the Toolkit?

The Toolkit has been used to support an entire school's effort in building a stronger literacy foundation for adolescents. For an initial review should be conducted by a literacy team, which may consist of a combination of any of the following: principal, curriculum coordinator, professional development coordinator, department team/chairs, and select content area teachers.

Survey the Land

Understand the challenges of improving adolescent literacy

The resources in the Toolkit articulate a clear message about the literacy challenges facing adolescent learners. This evidence creates a sense of urgency for schools and teachers to respond to improve reading comprehension for every student across the content area in grades 6-12. The Toolkit brings you resources that demonstrate best practices in literacy for building professional learning communities. You may also refer to the “Content Application Grid” about the individual tools to help assemble your school’s comprehensive literacy plan.

Contents

The Adolescent Literacy Toolkit DVD

The table of contents lists and links all the support documents included in your Toolkit plus additional resources for further study. The application grid highlights the potential implications for use of each resource in the Toolkit.

Staff Development Lessons

Three staff development lessons are available as you “unpack” the Toolkit. The lessons are intended to maximize the use of the Toolkit documents in facilitating the learning and prompt rich dialogue that can be use for “next steps” planning.

“Literacy Without Limits” DVD

This Kentucky Education Television (KET) resource captures Kentucky teachers demonstrating and infusing literacy strategies in their content area classrooms. KET has developed lesson plans that enrich and extend the DVD as a teaching tool for your staff.

Informed Choices for Struggling Adolescent Readers

This book published by the International Reading Association provides an overview of current research on what works best with adolescent learners. A directory includes more than 40 instructional programs designed to support literacy for adolescent learners. This directory should be used a resource when making informed choices about appropriate interventions for your school as you develop a blueprint for literacy success.

Construction: Next Steps from Blueprint to Building A Literacy Plan

Lay a Foundation

Assess the needs and challenges of adolescent literacy in your school

- * Determine how your approaches to teaching literacy align to the best practices demonstrated in the Toolkit resources (e.g., *Reading Next, Writing Next, Literacy Instruction in the Content Areas*)
- * Share with your staff the results of your assessment
- * Identify key personnel who will be dedicated in creating a blueprint for success

Draft a Plan

Create a dedicated Literacy Team to act on the vision developed by your staff

- * Formulate a shared vision including the creation of goals and objectives for embedding literacy across the curriculum
- * Meet with team to outline priorities and plan for tracking results
- * Establish a process for reporting regularly to the staff on progress or challenges as a result of the plan's implementation

Build the Framework

Implement school wide changes and support individual staff through professional development to further literacy goals

- * Establish professional learning communities
- * Target additional resources to be accessed to foster continual growth
- * Monitor progress regularly at staff meetings or other group settings
- * Survey students through the use of focus groups to determine effectiveness

A school literacy plan has the potential for transforming a school's culture. Raising expectations to increase student achievement must be accompanied by the adequate support and training for teachers. Ultimately, a successful shift in culture will lead to higher levels of engagement, motivation, and achievement in literacy learning across the content area.