

Addressing Adolescent Literacy: A Plan of Action for State Departments of Education

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Why Adolescent Literacy Matters

“Neglecting students’ literacy has serious economic consequences for individuals and states.”

Berman and Biancarosa

A State's Responsibility

- Recognize sound adolescent literacy programs.
- Create policy that addresses adolescent literacy.
- Support districts and schools in their pursuit of adolescent literacy.

15 Key Research-Based Strategies for Improving Adolescent Literacy

- Instruction
- Infrastructure

Biancarosa and Snow



Instructional Improvements

- Direct, explicit comprehension instruction
- Effective instructional principles embedded in content
- Motivation and self-directed learning
- Text-based collaborative learning

- Strategic tutoring
- Diverse texts
- Intensive writing
- A technology component
- Ongoing formative assessment of students

Infrastructure

- Extended time for literacy
- Professional development
- Ongoing summative assessments of students and programs
- Teacher teams
- Leadership
- A comprehensive and coordinated literacy program

How does a
state
department of
education
support
districts and
schools?



“Research and best practices identified by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices’ Adolescent Literacy Advisory Panel suggest governors pursue five strategies to improve adolescent literacy achievement.”

Berman and Biancarosa

Strategies to Improve Adolescent Literacy

- Build support for a state focus on adolescent literacy.
- Raise literacy expectations across grades and curricula.
- Encourage and support school and district literacy plans.

- Build educators' capacity to provide adolescent literacy instruction.
- Measure progress in adolescent literacy at the school, district, and state levels.

What are our challenges in addressing the problems around adolescent literacy and how do we go about meeting them?

References

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