

Solving Critical Education Challenges

SYSTEMIC STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING STUDENTS' LITERACY OUTCOMES Better evidence for better decision-making

Improving students' literacy outcomes begins with evidence-based practices, training, coaching, and a systemic and sustainable approach. At AIR, we lead with **expertise**, follow the **evidence**, and never stop drawing new connections **to build a better world**. We partner with **states, districts, and schools** to support their most critical needs with a focus on helping students learn and prioritizing the **use of evidence in classroom literacy instruction**.

We understand state education systems and the complexity that lies at the intersections of federal, state, and local systems. Through collaborative partnerships, we focus on designing a solution that builds on the strengths of your education system. With AIR, you can make sure that your decisions are informed by high-quality research and evidence and that plans for program implementation are backed by evidence-based practices.

AIR experts are here to support:

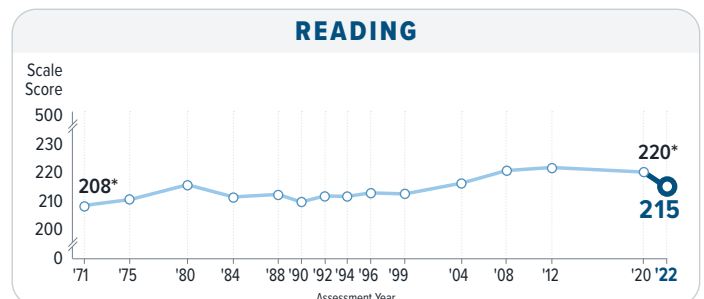
- The design of impactful, evidence-based adult learning on science of reading, MTSS, and assessments
- Implementation with measurable benchmarks, evidence-based resources, and sustainability in mind
- Formative evaluation that is quick and accessible to fuel continuous improvement
- Evidence-building research and development

Improving literacy instruction and student literacy proficiency requires innovation and expertise. Literacy is a cornerstone of a child's future success. When children develop strong reading and writing skills, doors open to higher education and better job opportunities. Investing in literacy not only empowers students but is foundational to the overall development and prosperity of communities. We know that this means supporting the acquisition of literacy skills early and supporting students who may have missed acquiring these skills through ongoing interventions into secondary school. Recent reading proficiency scores make it clear that states need an approach that addresses these dual challenges. Too many students are not acquiring these skills early.

Our work drives toward practical solutions that ensure systems improve lives for families and communities.

AIR's cadre of national experts have experience in states, districts, and schools. With AIR, you have access to proven resources, processes, and protocols to drive improvement.

National Assessment of Educational Progress 2022



Score change between 2020 and 2022



Largest score drop
in reading since 1990

Teachers need help and evidence-based strategies.

Our nation's failing literacy scores are a top concern of parents and policymakers. In the past, funding has often been directed toward solutions that don't address the technical core of schools: the classroom teachers. While supports like creating new coaching positions and tutors for students are a part of the solution, these strategies are not a long-term fix. Consider options that address systemic challenges, including:



Literacy Research and Practice Centers. Centers provide targeted and universal support through professional development, data-driven decision-making, and resource development, connecting research to practice and ultimately improving student outcomes and school performance. AIR can develop educational programs, professional development sessions, and coaching modules to help school leaders and educators understand and use proven reading strategies. Further, using a tiered approach, AIR can ensure the schools in most need receive the most intensive support.



District-Level Professional Development Networks. Staff in districts and schools can all benefit from professional development and technical assistance (TA) to teachers on implementing high-quality language and literacy instruction, with a focus on instructional strategies to use with students who need intensive support. AIR helps educators gain the knowledge, motivation, and skills needed to improve literacy outcomes. The network model ensures that these educators are available to support one another. Connect with us about a range of evidence-based training programs, including peer-to-peer learning and coaching.



Needs Assessment and Technical Assistance. Understanding distinct state needs and the context in which these needs arise is critical to achieving outcomes and sustaining improvements. AIR provides services to build the capacity of Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grantees and their subgrantees in addressing literacy. The support involves TA aligning CLSD grants with each state's comprehensive literacy plan. TA also includes assisting states in providing the necessary support to local education agencies in choosing and implementing evidence-based literacy practices and programs.

At AIR, we understand that each education system is unique. That is why we bring our deep content knowledge and expertise combined with our understanding of the complexities and nuances of state and local education systems to provide a strategy that fits your needs and meets your goals.

Better evidence for better decision-making.

Why are students' reading proficiency scores stagnant? Implementation is hard. States, regions, and districts need support to identify, scale, and sustain innovations that work.

Monitoring and evaluation are crucial for improving education systems as they provide valuable data on the effectiveness of programs and initiatives, allowing educators to make informed decisions and adjustments.

With AIR as a partner, states can create systems for schools to identify areas for improvement, ensure optimal resource and financial allocations, develop plans for continuous improvement, and ultimately improve learning outcomes.

Find out more about
our literacy work.



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