

Adolescent Literacy

69% of 8th grade students fall below the proficient level in their ability to comprehend the meaning of text. Reading ability is a key predictor of achievement in mathematics and science. Many adolescents need to improve their reading comprehension skills before they can take full advantage of instruction in the content areas. Students who are reading one to two levels below their grade level require intervention from a reading specialist.

Intensive Intervention

- Use reliable screening assessments
- Match instructional intensity to student needs
- Extend intervention strategies to content-area instruction
- Use reading specialists to provide interventions

Comprehension Strategies

- Teach a range of comprehension strategies
- Carefully select a variety of texts
- Provide for guided and independent practice

Engaging Text Discussion

- Select engaging and relevant materials
- Extend discussions with follow-up questions
- Facilitate and guide small-group discussions

Vocabulary Instruction

- Use explicit instruction in regular lessons
- Teach strategies for independent learning
- Provide exposure and practice in multiple contexts

