

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

School design to
 Offer the
 performance of at-risk
 elementary, K-8,
 Get into and high schools

About America's Choice > **About America's Choice**

ABOUT AMERICA'S CHOICE

- News & White Papers
- Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice
- About America's Choice**
- Contact Us
- Common Core Standards Resources

America's Choice is a new kind of educational organization. We are a solution provider. We offer comprehensive, proven solutions to the complex problems educators face in the era of accountability.

America's Choice has an unparalleled **history** as a national thought leader and as the creator of research-based school improvement solutions that work for states, districts, and schools.

We have traveled the world to learn how the most successful schools and school systems organize and systematically teach for results. We know how to help the millions of American students who are at risk of failing to catch up, to meet rigorous academic standards, and to succeed in school. And we know how to bring out the best in school leaders, coaches, and teachers. Our coherent, uniquely American solutions help schools focus on teaching, learning, and results.

Watch what our schools across the country say about solutions by America's Choice

Our Mission

Our Staff

What We Offer

Our History

District and State Partnerships

State Alliance

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2011 America's Choice

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

- Offerings
- Get Local
- News & White Papers
- Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice
- About America's Choice
- Contact Us
- Common Core Standards Resources

About America's Choice > **Teaching for conceptual understanding in mathematics; creating more effective coaches**

OUR MISSION

America's Choice is a mission-driven organization. Everything we do is directed towards producing:

- Students who leave high school ready to do college work without remediation
- Schools we would want our children to attend
- Schools that can get all students to high standards, no matter where they start

- Our Mission**
- Our Staff**
- What We Offer**
- Our History**
- District and State Partnerships**
- State Alliance**

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2011 America's Choice

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

About America's Choice > > **What We Offer**

- Offerings
- Get Local
- News & White Papers
- Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice
- About America's Choice
- Contact Us
- Common Core Standards Resources

WHAT WE OFFER

The **America's Choice School Design** provides an unmatched combination of professional development, technical assistance, and high-quality materials to help turn around schools that have a substantial group of students with difficulty meeting standards. The design is customized for elementary, K-8, middle, and high schools.

Ramp-Up Literacy and **Ramp-Up Mathematics** are comprehensive instructional systems designed to accelerate the learning of middle and high school students who are two or more years behind grade level. These solutions feature yearlong, double-period classes to help students catch up.

Literacy Navigator and **Mathematics Navigator** are modular interventions for elementary and secondary students who are experiencing difficulty with specific topics. These interventions supplement any curriculum and stop achievement gaps before they start.

America's Choice Writing Aviator™ is an intensive, research-based writing program for students who are working on grade level. It improves their writing effectiveness and fluency and prepares them for state tests, college essays, and postsecondary education and workplace success. This carefully sequenced, coherent program features intensive instruction, a content-rich curriculum, and daily practice in a one-hour class.

The America's Choice **Coaching Program** provides district and school instructional coaches with targeted, systematic training.

District Partnerships help districts design and implement coherent districtwide strategies for curriculum, instruction, assessment, and learning climate—to optimize performance for all students.

The **State Alliance for High Performance** works with state education departments to implement global best practices. We help create state-level policies and structures that help our students match or exceed the performance of their peers in the world's highest-performing nations.

Our Mission

Our Staff

What We Offer

Our History

District and State Partnerships

State Alliance

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2011 America's Choice

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

- Offerings
- Mathematics
- Literacy
- School Design**
- Coaching Program
- Professional Development
- English Language Learners
- District and State Partnerships
- Science
- Get Local
- News & White Papers
- Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice

Research-based Offerings > School Design
 professional development and materials for teachers of English language learners

SCHOOL DESIGN

A comprehensive, coherent, research-based solution for schools—elementary, K–8, middle, and high—that improves the performance of all students.

For more than ten years, America's Choice has been a proven turnaround partner; we have helped over 1,000 schools across the country. We have the **results** you are looking for—improved student achievement, higher test scores, increased graduation rates, fewer discipline problems, and more effective leadership and teaching.

The America's Choice School Design helps districts and schools focus on five critical elements of school improvement:

1. Creating a **standards-based system** with assessments that monitor progress and inform instruction
2. **Aligning instruction to standards** and focusing teaching on moving students from where they are to where they need to be
3. **Strengthening instructional leadership**
4. **Building professional learning communities**
5. **Engaging parents and the community**

The America's Choice School Design is a coherent, comprehensive design that offers exceptional instructional materials and strategies with first-rate coaching and professional development.

"America's Choice has produced significant improvements in schools where it has been implemented, helping to close the achievement gap and lifting more students to high standards."

— *The Education Innovator*, U.S. Department of Education, October 25, 2004

Rigorous Standards and Assessments

Aligned Instructional Systems

Strengthening Instructional Leadership

Professional Learning Communities

Parent/Guardian and Community Engagement

Elementary Design

K-8 Design

Middle School Design

High School Design

Research-Based Solutions

School Design Results

Implementation Commitments

What People Are Saying

Assessment and Reporting Online

An overview of the School Design, with Judy Coddling, president of America's Choice, as well as educators and external evaluators.



COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

- Offerings
- Get Local
- News & White Papers
- Results
- School Design Results**
- Math Navigator Results
- Ramp-Up Math Results
- Ramp-Up Literacy Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice

Research-based results > School Design Results
 professional development and materials for teachers of English language learners

RESULTS FOR AMERICA'S CHOICE SCHOOL DESIGN

The America's Choice School Design is a proven solution for schools with a record of poor performance. We help turn around schools where most students are having difficulty meeting state standards across multiple subjects.

State Results

After just one year in America's Choice schools, **Arkansas** elementary students **outpaced state gains in proficiency in both literacy and mathematics**. America's Choice works with the lowest-performing schools across the state.

Over four years, average annual growth in 30 America's Choice middle schools in **Georgia** exceeded state growth in both English language arts and mathematics. "Georgia's Choice" has yielded **long-term, statewide results**—and has met the Georgia Department of Education's challenge to get at least 50 percent of students to proficiency on a new state test within three years.

America's Choice schools in **Hawaii** have made **steady growth in proficiency over five years** in both literacy and mathematics. Three schools that had been in restructuring met AYP for the first time.

Over three years, elementary, middle, and high schools in **Mississippi** using the America's Choice School Design **exceeded the state growth rate in reading, language, and mathematics**. Eight of the first 40 schools identified as the lowest performing in the state exited the "priority" list after just one year as America's Choice schools.

District Results

America's Choice schools in **Rochester, NY**, made **substantial long-term gains in student achievement**, particularly for low-performing and minority students, on state tests and other nationally normed measures. The results come from an **independent, comprehensive, longitudinal study** of America's Choice schools.

Over seven years, America's Choice schools in **New York City** topped state gains in English language arts and mathematics. America's Choice elementary students in almost 40 of the toughest schools in the district **exceeded state gains annually and cumulatively**.

After just one year as America's Choice schools, three **Chicago** K-8 schools made the city's **"top 50 gainers"** list for composite increases on the state test.

Niagara Falls, NY, is **closing the gap with the state** with districtwide results on the state's English language arts assessment.

Duval County, FL, implemented the America's Choice School Design in more than a third of its 160-plus schools. The district made steady growth in reading and mathematics—and was **recognized by the state for the highest increase in "A"-rated schools**.

School Results

William E. Doar Jr. Public Charter School for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, selected the America's Choice School Design when it opened in 2004. In a struggling district, the school **made AYP for the first time** in its third year of operation.

In two years as an America's Choice school, **Chattooga High School** in rural Georgia **increased its graduation rate by 20 percent and improved student performance in all subjects on graduation tests**. The school also made AYP and improved results substantially for students with disabilities.

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

- Offerings
- Mathematics**
- Literacy
- School Design
- Coaching Program
- Professional Development
- English Language Learners
- District and State Partnerships
- Science
- Get Local
- News & White Papers
- Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice

MATHEMATICS

It's Time For a New Approach to Math Intervention

Many educators are frustrated by the limited options they have for helping students who struggle with math. Research has shown that what holds students back is not only a lack of knowledge, but also the **misconceptions** they have developed over the years. For students to succeed, interventions must not only build skills and problem solving, *but also* identify and address misconceptions.

America's Choice math interventions do all of this and more.


Students struggling with math have different levels of need. Some can be addressed with short-term interventions; others require more sustained and intensive attention. That is why America's Choice offers a **tiered set** of programs. You can also view how our math intervention programs fit in the **Response to Intervention (RTI)** model.

"We had excellent results with Mathematics Navigator and Ramp-Up Mathematics."

— Nilene Quave, Principal, Pearl River Central Junior School, Pearl River, MS

Offerings > Mathematics > Mathematics for conceptual understanding in mathematics;

Leading mathematics educator, **Phil Daro** of America's Choice explains the impetus behind the America's Choice Mathematics programs and some of its goals and design features.




Mathematics Navigator[®] **Grades 2-10**

Mathematics Navigator is a short-term, tier-two intervention program that helps students repair gaps and misconceptions—and master concepts, skills, and problem solving that are critical for success in algebra, geometry, and other higher-level courses. Navigator modules are 20 days in length and augment the on-grade curriculum with 35-45 minutes of targeted instruction, delivered during, before or after school, or in summer school.



Ramp-Up Mathematics[®] **Grades 6-9**

Ramp-Up Mathematics is a year-long, tier-three comprehensive acceleration system specifically targeted to boost the performance of secondary students who are two or more years below grade level in mathematics. Ramp-Up to Pre-Algebra and Ramp-Up to Algebra are designed to accelerate learning, raise test scores, break the cycle of failure, and establish a pattern of achievement. Ramp-Up provides a replacement curriculum and expands the standard period to 90 minutes of instruction.



Ramp-Up to Algebra for California **Grades 7-11**

Ramp-Up to Algebra for California is a yearlong algebra readiness program that targets the concepts most critical to success in algebra while rebuilding mathematical foundations.

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2011 America's Choice

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

- Offerings
- Mathematics
- Literacy**
- School Design
- Coaching Program
- Professional Development
- English Language Learners
- District and State Partnerships
- Science
- Get Local
- News & White Papers
- Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice

Offerings > Literacy

LITERACY

All Students Need to Become Strong Readers and Writers. Now They Can.

For many students, literacy problems that begin in the elementary years trigger a cycle of academic failure in middle and high school. Students who read far below grade level can't succeed in school and are at risk of dropping out. Many students who are in on-grade programs need stronger reading skills to thrive as they delve into new areas of content and their texts increase in complexity. And even strong readers may lack the skills to succeed in the craft of writing, even though it is increasingly important for high-stakes tests, the SAT, and for employers.

America's Choice has developed a set of revolutionary literacy solutions to help students become strong readers and effective writers. They use authentic literature, scaffolded workshops, and explicit instruction in the skills they need for success.



Ramp-Up Literacy

Grades 6 & 9

Ramp-Up Literacy™ is a yearlong, comprehensive acceleration system specifically designed to boost the performance of secondary students who are two or more years below grade level in literacy. Ramp-Up to Middle Grades Literacy and Ramp-Up to Advanced Literacy accelerates learning, raise test scores, break the cycle of failure, and establish a pattern of achievement. Ramp-Up provides a replacement curriculum and expands the standard period to 90 minutes of instruction.



Ramp-Up Literacy for Florida

Grades 6 & 9

Ramp-Up Literacy™ for Florida has been approved as a Comprehensive Intervention Reading program for the state of Florida.



Literacy Navigator™

Grades 4-10

Literacy Navigator™ is a supplementary modular intervention that uses powerful cognitive research to build comprehension for reading in the content areas.



Writing Aviator

Grades 2-10

America's Choice Writing Aviator™ is a carefully sequenced, coherent K-10 program that provides targeted, systematic instruction and daily practice in writing, reinforced with reading.

[CONTACT US](#)

Copyright © 2011 America's Choice

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

- Offerings
- Mathematics
- Literacy
- School Design
- Coaching Program
- Professional Development
- English Language Learners**
- District and State Partnerships
- Science
- Get Local
- News & White Papers
- Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice

Research-based professional development and materials for teachers of English language learners

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

America's Choice Helps English Language Learners Succeed

A student body with diverse backgrounds, languages, cultures, and literacy experiences presents both challenges and opportunities for many schools today. America's Choice believes that all students, including English language learners (ELLs), can achieve academic success given the proper tools and effective instruction.

That is why we have incorporated the most current second-language-acquisition research and methodology into all of our solutions, from our **math interventions** to our comprehensive **school design**. Our own ESL experts and practitioners have also leveraged this research to create exceptional stand-alone materials and professional development for administrators, ESL teachers, and mainstream content-area teachers.

Our ELL materials include

- Tools and information to foster collaboration between classroom and ESL teachers
- Specific advice and procedures to make the America's Choice literacy, math, and science programs more accessible in a linguistically diverse classroom
- Guidance for school leaders on how to identify their students' needs and create a culture of success
- Text in Spanish for use in Spanish-English bilingual program models

Our ELL resources include

- Teaching English Language Learners: Literacy K-5
- Bridging Into English: Literacy Lessons for English language learners K-5 (includes a CD with model lessons)
- Latino Literature, K-5
- Ramp-Up to Literacy, English Language Learners, Teacher Guide Series
- English Language Learners: A Resource Guide for School Leaders
- Teaching English Language Learners: Literacy, Secondary
- Ensuring Success for English Language Learners: Ramp-Up to Mathematics
- Genre Study Compendium for English Language Learners
- First 30 Days of Readers and Writers Workshop, K-5: A Bilingual Guide for Teachers
- Mathematics Navigator **student editions in Spanish** for all elementary modules

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2011 America's Choice

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

Research-based > Literacy > Writing Aviator
 professional development and materials for teachers of English language learners

- Offerings
- Mathematics
- Literacy
- School Design
- Coaching Program
- Professional Development
- English Language Learners
- District and State Partnerships
- Science
- Get Local
- News & White Papers
- Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice

WRITING AVIATOR

A carefully sequenced, coherent K–10 instructional system that strengthens writing effectiveness and fluency for students working on grade level

Provides sound instruction and intense practice in writing, beginning in the earliest years of school
 Teaches students the writing process—planning, drafting, editing, and revising—in a daily, one-hour class
 Provides a content-rich curriculum with genre studies in narrative, report, and persuasive writing—genres that students are expected to know to meet school demands, state testing requirements, and college and career expectations
 Makes the connections between reading and writing explicit
 Builds in **classroom practices** that engage students and teachers in writing
 Responds to the needs of ELL and special needs students
 Supports teachers with high-quality **professional development**, an engaging **curriculum**, and aligned **assessments**

Writing Aviator goes beyond the writing workshop to provide clear instruction in the craft of writing.

See how Writing Aviator fits in the **Response to Intervention (RTI)** model.

What's Included

Professional Development

Daily Structure

Assessment

Research Basis

Implementation

"Students are writing more and enjoying it! The quality of their writing has grown over time. Teachers are more comfortable facilitating writing and assisting students through the process."

— Ruth S. Williams, principal, Kelly Elementary School

Call: 877.530.2716

Email: info@americaschoice.org

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2011 America's Choice

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

- Offerings
- Mathematics
- Literacy
- School Design
- Coaching Program
- Professional Development
- English Language Learners
- District and State Partnerships
- Science**
- Get Local
- News & White Papers
- Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice

Research-based professional development and materials for teachers of English language learners

Offerings > Science

SCIENCE

Download the **brochure**

Download a **sample lesson**

Science Navigator for Secondary Students

Research shows that to succeed in college and the 21st-century workplace, students need the content knowledge and reasoning skills that are part of a strong science education. Science Navigator is designed to prepare middle-school students for success in their science classes. The program fills in the gaps in students' knowledge and builds their process skills, giving students a solid foundation for meeting the requirements of high-school science courses.

Science Navigator focuses on scientific investigation, process skills, reading comprehension of complex text, and ways for teachers to probe for student understanding. Exploring the topic of energy, the inquiry-based lessons in Science Navigator foster an active engagement in science and deepen student learning.

In middle school, Science Navigator can be used as a supplemental program to raise students' achievement level. For students who need extra support to acquire the process skills necessary for their future high-school science courses, Science Navigator can be used in beyond-the-bell or extended-learning-time classrooms. The program can also serve as an intervention to help high-school students be on track for college and career readiness.



Module 1

Energy Foundations
 Lessons 1–5: Energy and the Transfer of Thermal Energy
 Lessons 6–10: Conduction, Convection, and Radiation
 Lessons 11–15: Radiant Energy and the Water Cycle
 Lessons 16–20: Energy and Climate Change



Module 2

Energy in Living Systems
 Lessons 1–5: Flow of Energy, Producers, and Photosynthesis
 Lessons 6–10: Consumers, Food, and Digestion
 Lessons 11–15: Decomposers and Food Webs
 Lessons 16–20: Carbon Cycle, Populations, and the Impact of Changing Climates



Module 3

Energy in Physical Systems
 Lessons 1–5: Transfer of Energy and Turbines
 Lessons 6–10: Magnets, Electricity, and Generators
 Lessons 11–15: Circuits and the Transmission of Electricity
 Lessons 16–20: Different Energy Sources



Science Process Skills

A reference book for teachers and students that can be used with all three module all three modules.

Call: 877.530.2716

Email: info@americaschoice.org

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2011 America's Choice

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

- Offerings
- Mathematics
- Literacy
- School Design
- Coaching Program
- Professional Development**
- English Language Learners
- District and State Partnerships
- Science
- Get Local
- News & White Papers
- Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice

Research-based professional development and materials for teachers of English language learners > Professional Development

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Outstanding professional development is a hallmark that distinguishes America's Choice.

The goal of our professional development is to change classroom practice and equip school staff to provide instruction that makes a difference.

Outstanding training comes from outstanding trainers. America's Choice ensures that our trainers and coaches meet the highest standards. Before they begin to work with schools, our staff participates in a rigorous certification process developed by our National College. They become specialists in one or more specialty areas—literacy, mathematics, science, English language learning, or leadership. Our certified trainers make America's Choice uniquely qualified to support educators.

Our **mathematics professional development program** strengthens teachers' content knowledge and pedagogy. By focusing on the most important concepts students must learn to succeed in algebra and beyond, we help teachers expand their math knowledge and become more effective. Our professional development enables teachers to deliver their district-adopted math programs more efficiently and with better results.

The **America's Choice Coaching Program™** provides targeted, systematic training for district and school instructional coaches who need a specific set of skills to be effective change agents, models, and mentors to classroom teachers.

Download an outline of our offerings in professional development that reinforce our Intervention programs.

To inquire about products and purchasing:

Call:
877.530.2716

Email:
info@americaschoice.org

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2011 America's Choice

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

- Offerings
- Mathematics
- Literacy
- School Design
- Coaching Program
- Professional Development
- English Language Learners
- District and State Partnerships
- Science
- Get Local
- News & White Papers
- Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice

Offerings > Professional Development > Mathematics Professional Development

Research and materials for teachers of English language learners

MATHEMATICS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our professional development for math teachers uses a three-pronged approach to teaching mathematics. We believe teachers must teach for conceptual understanding, build problem-solving skills, and strengthen basic skills.

We help teachers succeed at each grade level on the most important concepts and skills that students need to acquire. Teachers also learn practices to strengthen students' ability to think, reason and communicate mathematically.

Upper Elementary level topics included

- concepts of addition and subtraction
- concepts of multiplication and division
- concepts of fractions and decimals
- surfacing and revising misconceptions
- focused teaching
- strategies for building academic language

Middle School and High School level topics include

- rational numbers
- ration, proportional reasoning
- surfacing and revising misconceptions
- analyzing student work to inform instruction
- accessing academic language
- differentiating for ELL and special needs students

America's Choice Mathematics Institutes generally require six days and are delivered in three sessions. Between sessions, participants return to their schools to experiment with and implement practices they learned. Each successive session builds on participants' implementation experiences. This embeds professional development in instructional practice.

Our professional development is most effective when an entire district adopts it. Grounding all mathematics teachers in common practices and strategies strengthens districtwide performance. It establishes a shared language and set of routines and strategies that support the mathematics program and provides continuity when teachers move from school to school.

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2011 America's Choice

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
				Research-based Offerings > professional development and materials for teachers of English language learners	Coaching Program
<h2>COACHING</h2> <p>Even the greatest teachers need training before they can become great coaches.</p> <p>Like great athletes, great teachers benefit from skilled coaching. Yet most districts and schools do not have the tradition or capacity to train effective coaches, who need a unique set of skills that even excellent teachers may not have.</p> <p>The America's Choice Coaching Program™ provides district and school instructional coaches with targeted, systematic training delivered by our highly qualified, experienced professional development staff. This program's modules on skills, process, and culture help coaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hone interpersonal skills for facilitating, questioning, and guiding teachers Create customized coaching plans that reflect principles of adult learning and respond to demonstrated teacher needs and student progress Nurture a professional culture of collaboration and reflective teacher practice with classroom demonstrations, observations, analysis of student work, and study groups Support classroom instruction that is more closely aligned with state standards and assessments Meet the needs of all students, including English language learners and special populations <p>Our action-oriented program uses a variety of proven strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role plays, case studies, and instructional videos that help coaches establish relationships based on trust, active listening, effective questioning, constructive feedback, managing change, and overcoming resistance Assessing needs based on data, developing and negotiating action plans for teacher development, and reflecting on and evaluating outcomes Using observation and data to analyze root causes for performance gaps <p>Our five-day Coaching Institute empowers coaches to create a culture that supports ongoing collaboration and change through professional learning communities and teams.</p> <p>The America's Choice Coaching Program also offers training modules on our proven approaches to literacy and mathematics instruction. Optional on-site technical assistance and follow-up for coaches, leadership teams, and administrators are available as well.</p>					
<p>“The math and reading coaches that America's Choice sent to us were outstanding. They really got the ball rolling.”</p> <p>— Nina Guthrie, assistant superintendent, Pearl River County School District, Mississippi</p>					

- Offerings
- Mathematics
- Literacy
- School Design
- Coaching Program**
- Professional Development
- English Language Learners
- District and State Partnerships
- Science
- Get Local
- News & White Papers
- Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2011 America's Choice

AMERICA'S
CHOICE
RESULTS & COMMENTS

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

Results > School Design > Rochester, NY

- Offerings
- Get Local
- News & White Papers
- Results
 - School Design Results
 - Math Navigator Results
 - Ramp-Up Math Results
 - Ramp-Up Literacy Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice

ROCHESTER, NY

Independent, Comprehensive, Longitudinal Results

The Rochester City School District, one of five large urban districts in New York, began working with America's Choice in 1998 to improve schools and student achievement across the board. The district is a stellar example of the results that are possible with the America's Choice School Design.

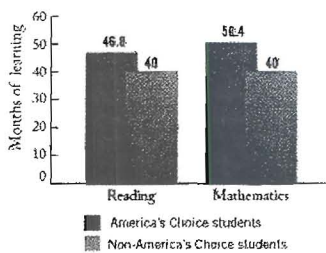
In a major longitudinal study, the Consortium for Policy Research in Education (CPRE), an independent consortium of seven of the nation's leading research institutions*, found that the America's Choice School Design results in substantial, long-term gains in student achievement, particularly for the lowest-performing and minority students. Gains were measured by state tests and other nationally normed measures.

After four years in America's Choice schools, students in Rochester have statistically significant gains in performance compared to other similar students—gains that accumulate year after year. In reading, they've gained 6.8 months compared with their peers. In mathematics, they've gained 10.4 months compared with their peers. By 8th grade, they are about a year ahead of similar students in Rochester schools.

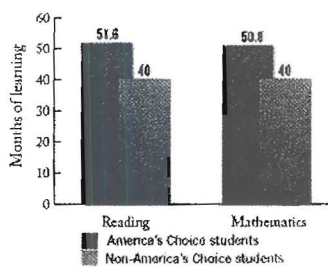
These results hold true with minority students as well. After four years in America's Choice schools, African American students are 5.6 months ahead of their peers in reading and 7.2 months ahead in mathematics. After four years in America's Choice schools, Hispanic students are 11.6 months ahead of their peers in reading and 10.8 months ahead in mathematics.

In fact, since the publication of this study, New York recognized Rochester in 2005 for having the biggest gains of any urban district on the state's assessments.

America's Choice Students Gain Additional Months of Learning



Gains by Hispanic Students in America's Choice Schools Narrow the Achievement Gap



America's Choice Helps Rochester

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

- Offerings
- Get Local
- News & White Papers
- Results
 - School Design Results
 - Math Navigator Results
 - Ramp-Up Math Results
 - Ramp-Up Literacy Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice

Research-based professional development and materials for teachers of English language learners

CHICAGO, IL

Three K-8 Schools in "Top Gainers" List After One Year of America's Choice

The Challenge

The Chicago Public Schools had a growing number of schools in the "needs improvement" designation.

The Solution

In the 2006-07 school year, the district selected the intensive version of the America's Choice School Design for eight severely underperforming K-8 schools.

The Results

After just one year, three of these America's Choice schools were recognized as among the "top 50 gainers" in Chicago's 623 schools for composite increases on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test.

[CONTACT US](#)

Copyright © 2011 America's Choice

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

- Offerings
- Get Local
- News & White Papers
- Results
- School Design Results
- Math Navigator Results
- Ramp-Up Math Results
- Ramp-Up Literacy Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice

Research for School Design > Chattooga High School
 Research for professional development and materials for teachers of English language learners

CHATTOOGA HIGH SCHOOL

Instructional Solutions Pay Off with AYP Results, Reduced Dropouts

The Challenge

With a dropout rate of almost 60 percent, and no college-bound culture within the community, overall achievement levels at Chattooga High School were low. The school knew it had to take action to give students in its rural, largely disadvantaged community better options for postsecondary success.

The Solution

Chattooga began by offering Ramp-Up to Advanced Literacy and Ramp-Up to Algebra in the 2004-05 school year, then implemented the full America's Choice School Design in the 2005-06 school year. In doing so, the high school joined the elementary and middle schools in the district that had already adopted the America's Choice design, which created a K-12 district wide solution that involved the entire community.

The Results

Chattooga experienced a nearly 20 percent increase in its graduation rate between 2004 and 2006.

Designated as a school "in need of improvement" in 2004-05, the school made AYP in 2005-06 by improving the percentage of students meeting and exceeding standards on the Georgia High School Graduation Tests for 11th graders.

Gains made by students with disabilities, who averaged 12 percent of the test-taking population, were particularly notable.

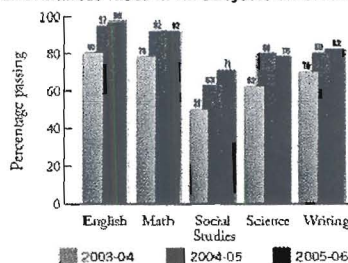
In addition to test score gains and improved graduation rates, the school has improved attendance and reduced disciplinary issues.

School Snapshot

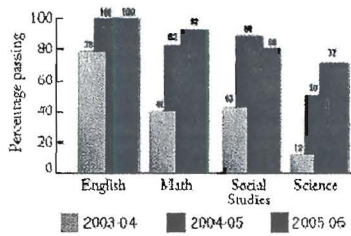
Chattooga High School
Chattooga County School District

- Rural
- Grades 9-12
- 740 students
- 59 percent economically disadvantaged
- 22 percent special needs students
- 80 percent white
- 15 percent African American
- 2 percent Hispanic

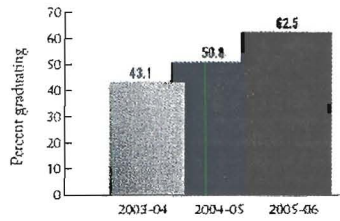
Student Performances Rises in All Subjects on Graduation Tests



Students with Disabilities Improve on Graduation Tests



In Two Years, Graduation Rate Jumps Almost 20 Percent



CONTACT US

Copyright © 2011 America's Choice

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

- Offerings
- Get Local
- West Region
- South Region
- Central Region**
- East Region
- News & White Papers
- Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice

Writing Aviator
 Comprehensive writing program to improve all students' writing

Get Local > Central Region

AMERICA'S CHOICE CENTRAL REGION

Contact the Central Region:
 Chicago, IL
 312.506.5091
 central@americaschoice.org
 AR, IL, IA, IN, KS, LA, MI,
 MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, OK,
 SD, TX, WI

NEW: Click [here](#) to visit our page for Arkansas.

In the Central Region, states, districts, and schools in Kentucky, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and Ohio have adopted the America's Choice School Design and instructional solutions over the past nine years.

In Illinois, for example, we have worked with urban and suburban districts and schools that were early adopters of the America's Choice School Design. Many of these districts have continued their relationships with America's Choice as alumni schools.

The Central Region encompasses the Midwest, stretching from West Virginia to the Dakotas and Oklahoma and from Michigan down to Kentucky.

Central Region Highlights

The **Chicago Public Schools**—the third largest school district in the country, with more than 400,000 students and over 600 schools—is working with America's Choice on two major, top-priority projects.

For the Chicago High School Redesign Initiative, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and several area foundations, America's Choice is establishing Readers and Writers Workshops in English classrooms and implementing Ramp-Up Literacy in selected schools. This project, which focuses on improving instructional programs in low-performing schools, includes customization of America's Choice literacy solutions to align them with Illinois state standards and deliver tailored instructional support. In the second year of this project, six high schools have implemented these solutions so far.

In 2006, the district selected the America's Choice School Design for several of its severely underperforming K-8 schools. After just one year as America's Choice schools, three of these schools were recognized among the "top 50 gainers" for composite increases on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test.

In **Ohio**, districts in **East Cleveland, Springfield, Warren, and Youngstown** have adopted the America's Choice School Design to improve student achievement in low-performing schools.

In 2006, the **Arkansas Department of Education** selected America's Choice in a competitive bidding process as its turnaround partner for schools facing restructuring. America's Choice works with the 31 schools statewide that have implemented the design's intensive version.

Schools in **Texas** have adopted Ramp-Up Literacy, Ramp-Up Mathematics, and Mathematics Navigator.

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

- Offerings
- Get Local
- News & White Papers
- AC in the News
- Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice

Writing Aviator News > AC in the News > Pearson Acquisition

PEARSON AND AMERICA'S CHOICE ANNOUNCE ACQUISITION AGREEMENT

Comprehensive writing program to students' writing



COMPANIES WILL EXTEND REACH OF RESEARCH-BASED, INNOVATIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SOLUTIONS

August 3, 2010, WASHINGTON -- Pearson, the world's leading education company, today signed a letter of agreement to acquire America's Choice, a leading innovator in research-based strategies to help schools, districts, and states dramatically improve student achievement. Pearson's extraordinary resources and technological expertise will facilitate the adaptation and reach of America's Choice's comprehensive and proven school improvement model to a global community of educators and students.

In recent years, education leaders and policymakers have placed heavy emphasis on school improvement strategies for education reform. "School improvement" is generally understood to describe a comprehensive, integrated approach to improving student achievement that brings together instruction, assessment, leadership development, professional development and coaching, and ongoing consulting services. The Obama Administration has identified more than 5,000 schools in need of such improvement, and allocated nearly \$17 billion dollars to fund the efforts by states and districts.

"Pearson and America's Choice share a common vision for school improvement centered on effective instruction, strong school leadership, and sustainable change in the school performance and culture," said Will Ethridge, Chief Executive Officer for Pearson in North America. "When we combine America's Choice's efficacy with the data- and technology-driven personalized learning capability for which Pearson is known, we can respond quickly and effectively to the rapidly growing demand for comprehensive reform in our nation's most struggling schools."

America's Choice is one of the most effective and highly regarded K-12 internationally benchmarked, research-based school reform companies in the US. It began as a program of the National Center on Education and Economy (NCEE) in 1998 and became a private organization in 2004.

Much of the design of America's Choice is based on research on the effective education practices of more than 20 countries with strong track records of educating all students to high levels. That research, conducted by the National Center on Education and the Economy over many years, was translated by America's Choice into instructional materials aligned to standards, safety net programs to help students who are struggling to get back on track for meeting standards, and extensive professional development and coaching for teachers and principals. America's Choice has worked closely with more than 2000 schools in 38 states to plan and implement a standards-based system.

Last year, a landmark study of school improvement ("School Improvement by Design," link: <http://bit.ly/7Q1539>) released by the Consortium for Policy Research in Education reported that the America's Choice programs performed significantly better than their major competitors in the field, and the study's researchers stated, "Students in America's Choice schools grew at a significantly faster rate than students in comparison schools and faster than students in all other schools."

"The NCEE Board of Trustees is very pleased by this acquisition," said Marc Tucker, President of NCEE. "NCEE launched America's Choice years ago as a research and development project to create a powerful engine for school improvement in the United States. Pearson's acquisition of America's Choice will makes that engine available to many more students in the United States and around the world than we ever could have alone."

"America's Choice decided earlier in the year to solicit indications of interest in the company as a means to expand our mission to reach larger numbers of students, schools, and districts across America" said Judy Coddling, President and Chief Executive Officer of America's Choice. "After much interest and an extensive review, we chose Pearson, a partner with a deep commitment to improving student performance. This is a wonderful opportunity to enhance the resources we provide by combining our proven education model with Pearson's unparalleled technology and world-wide resources."

Pearson is exploring opportunities to bring the America's Choice model to an international market, where other school improvement organizations are gaining traction. Just last week, Pearson also

launched a school improvement business in the UK and appointed Anders Hultin, an internationally recognized leader in the school improvement community, as its CEO (link: <http://bit.ly/aj3NDy>).

In the US, America's Choice will operate alongside Pearson's K12 Solutions business, an approved school improvement provider. America's Choice will be a core brand of Pearson, and its relationships with current clients will not change. Coddling will continue as CEO through the transition and will move into a senior advisory role for Pearson in 2011. Ken James will become President of America's Choice at the close of the acquisition and will assume broader responsibilities for day-to-day oversight of America's Choice. Coddling will report to Steven Dowling, Pearson Executive Vice President, who will oversee America's Choice.

"To date, our challenge as educators has been to replicate efficacy for vastly more students, and expand the impact of promising programs that weren't reaching enough students to make a significant difference," said Dowling. "This agreement allows the combined forces of America's Choice and Pearson to build an infrastructure to bring effective programs to scale."

The agreement is subject to a Hart-Scott-Rodino review and is projected to close in about a month.

###

Pearson (NYSE:PSO), the global leader in education services, technology and school solutions, provides innovative print and digital education materials for preK through college, student information systems and learning management systems, teacher professional development, career certification programs, and testing and assessment products that set the standard for the industry. Pearson's other primary businesses include the Financial Times Group and the Penguin Group. For more information about Pearson, go to www.pearsonschool.com.

America's Choice is a leading educational organization offering comprehensive, proven solutions to the complex problems educators face in the era of accountability. America's Choice has an unparalleled history as a national thought leader and as the creator of research-based school improvement solutions that work for states, districts, and schools. America's Choice offers groundbreaking school design programs, solutions, and professional development programs, created in collaboration with world leaders in education. Its instructional solutions intervention programs are comprised of the Mathematics Navigator™, Literacy Navigator™, Ramp-Up Mathematics™, Ramp-Up Literacy™, and America's Choice Writing Aviator™.

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Offerings Get Local News & White Papers AC in the News Results Conferences & Events About America's Choice	<p>News & White Papers Research in the News > CPRE Press Release</p> <p>America's Choice Outperforms Other Reform Programs in Unprecedented Study</p> <p>"Students in AC schools grew at a significantly faster rate than students in comparison schools and faster than students in all other schools"</p> <p>Download the press release</p> <p>January 19, 2010, WASHINGTON, D.C. – A landmark study on school improvement programs shows that America's Choice surpasses other programs in increasing academic achievement.</p> <p>Released in late 2009, School Improvement by Design is the capstone report of the Study of Instructional Improvement, a 13-year project of the Consortium for Policy Research in Education that received more than \$20 million in federal and foundation money. A major, quasi-experimental study, School Improvement by Design analyzed the design, implementation, and instructional effectiveness of America's Choice and two other comprehensive school reform (CSR) programs in elementary schools.</p> <p>America's Choice is a leading education organization offering states, districts, and schools instructional intervention solutions and programs.</p> <p>Over four years, researchers collected data from 115 elementary schools throughout the United States, including 31 America's Choice schools, to determine how practices in CSR schools differ from those in more typical schools, and whether these differences impact academic achievement. Researchers focused on literacy achievement because of literacy's importance to students' greater academic success. Without a mastery of reading and writing, students are unable to "read to learn," specifically to handle the literacy demands that accompany more advanced subject matter.</p> <p>America's Choice schools excelled over all other schools studied in increasing achievement at the upper elementary grades. Researchers found that "[students] in AC schools grew at a significantly faster rate than students in comparison schools and faster than students in all other schools."</p> <p>"We are thrilled with America's Choice's unparalleled success," said Judy Coddling, president and chief executive officer of America's Choice. "This impact on reading comprehension comes at an important time in a student's academic career, when reading comprehension is a major factor in future school success. Thanks to America's Choice's distinct instructional practices, unique curricular content, and strong instructional leadership, researchers saw critical differences that are vital to driving student success. As the report shows, America's Choice dramatically increases student achievement."</p> <p>Unlike comparison schools that only increased achievement in the lower grades, if at all, America's Choice's gains were sustained into the higher grades. Due to America's Choice's distinct approach to literacy instruction, researchers report that America's Choice schools experienced "accelerated growth in students' literacy achievement at the upper elementary grades."</p> <p>According to researchers, America's Choice's success is due to several distinct characteristics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong instructional leadership from extensive coaching: America's Choice schools are higher than all other schools on multiple dimensions of instructional leadership A clear and well-specified improvement plan: Teachers and leaders receive unmatched levels of instructional guidance, giving them a clear and well-specified view of their school improvement plan Faithful implementation of America's Choice in schools: Teachers and principals implemented strategies with fidelity Greater emphasis on writing in lessons: America's Choice teachers focused on writing in 54 percent of all lessons; comparison teachers focused on writing in 38 percent of lessons <p>According to the report, the potential for academic achievement increases "if schools have a faithful implementation of the design." Teachers studied were consistent in their use of instructional strategies. This is likely due to the high levels of instructional guidance and standardization, which includes school leaders working closely with teachers to help them develop the knowledge and capabilities to use the design effectively. Researchers found that America's Choice teachers were less variable in writing instruction than all other teachers studied, offering further evidence of the design's impact on literacy instruction.</p>				

Schools in the study were disproportionately chosen from high and medium poverty districts to evaluate the impact of specific instructional interventions on student achievement in high poverty settings.

"America's Choice's success among vulnerable students, in particular, is very encouraging," said Dr. Ken James, executive vice president and chief operating officer of America's Choice. "We are going to continue to intensify existing strategies and incorporate new ones that the report verifies are effective. We see this as a prime opportunity to advance our commitment to turning around the lowest performing schools."

To read the report, visit

http://www.cpre.org/images/stories/cpre_pdfs/sii%20final%20report_web%20file.pdf.

###

America's Choice is a leading educational organization offering comprehensive, proven solutions to the complex problems educators face in the era of accountability. America's Choice has an unparalleled history as a national thought leader and as the creator of research-based school improvement solutions that work for states, districts, and schools. America's Choice offers groundbreaking school design programs, solutions, and professional development programs, created in collaboration with world leaders in education. Its instructional solutions intervention programs are comprised of the Mathematics Navigator®, Literacy Navigator®, Ramp-Up Mathematics®, Ramp-Up Literacy®, and America's Choice Writing Aviator®. For more information, visit <http://www.americaschoice.org>.

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2011 America's Choice

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS	LITERACY INTERVENTIONS	MATHEMATICS INTERVENTIONS	ON GRADE PROGRAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
-------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

- Offerings
- Get Local
- News & White Papers
- AC in the News
- Results
- Conferences & Events
- About America's Choice

Writing Aviator
Comprehensive
improve all
students' writing

White Papers News > AC in the News > JSD Article

America's Choice Ramp-Up to Literacy was Featured in the Fall 2009 Issue of the Journal of Staff Development (JSD)

September 1, 2009

America's Choice Ramp-Up to Literacy was featured in the Fall 2009 issue of the Journal of Staff Development (JSD), a publication of the National Staff Development Council. The article, *Fast Track to Literacy* by Thomas Guskey, Marco Muñoz, and Jennifer Aberli, examines the effectiveness of Ramp-Up in accelerating the literacy skills of struggling high school students. The authors studied the implementation of Ramp-Up in Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, Kentucky, and documented the positive results for involved teachers and students.

School and district leaders identified student learning outcomes they wanted to improve, the evidence believed to accurately reflect those outcomes, and the instructional practices that would result in the desired improvements. These criteria led the district to implementation of Ramp-Up to Literacy. As Muñoz wrote in his 2007 article, *Improving reading in high schools: Outcomes of Ramp-Up to Advanced Literacy in a large urban district*, "Pilot testing of the program showed it to have a significant positive effect on students' scores on norm-referenced reading and language arts assessments."

In the Jefferson County Public Schools there were strikingly positive results for teachers and their students. The quantitative and qualitative data showed that participating teachers were highly satisfied with their professional learning experiences during the institutes and follow-up sessions. The positive impact on student learning was documented by several measures, including a dramatic reduction in the percentage of high school students scoring at the lowest novice level in reading on the state assessment, lowering from 20.3% in 2000 to only 5.6% in 2007. Implementation of Ramp-Up led to a rapid rise of students' scores on the high school Reading Academic Index, increasing from 66.7% in 2000 to 91.1% in 2007. The successes documented in this article highlight the ability of Ramp-Up to increase the instructional practices of teachers and the success of students.

Download full article.

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2011 America's Choice

The Washington Post

Usual Efforts to Raise Scores Have Weak Effect, Study Says

By Megan Greenwell
Washington Post Staff Writer
Thursday, December 6, 2007

Common methods used to improve test scores in Maryland's chronically underperforming schools have had little effect, according to a report scheduled to be released today, but Prince George's County and other school systems have shown a willingness to try other approaches that could lead to a reversal of the downward trend.

The Center on Education Policy, a nonpartisan agency, found that the number of Maryland schools designated for restructuring -- the sanction for schools that have failed to meet federal No Child Left Behind goals for five years or more -- increased nearly 40 percent from 2004 to 2006 despite new state guidelines intended to address persistent performance issues. The restructuring schools are all in Prince George's or Baltimore.

"We certainly aren't in a position today to say that the schools are trying hard enough," said Jack Jennings, president of the nonpartisan center. "Nobody has found the answers."

The report comes a year after another Center on Education Policy publication criticized school systems' reliance on "turnaround specialists" to improve performance rather than attempting more systematic overhauls. State-approved restructuring methods include replacing all or most of the school staff, contracting with a private management company, converting the school to a charter school or appointing an accomplished principal from another school system.

Last year, Maryland State Superintendent Nancy S. Grasmick eliminated the use of turnaround specialists to restructure schools, but schools already using the specialists, including some in Prince George's, were allowed to continue.

"Both Baltimore City and Prince George's County were not producing data that supported this option as an effective strategy for turning around failing schools," Assistant State Superintendent Ann Chafin told the researchers.

The report commended the state and Prince George's for their innovation, citing county Superintendent John E. Deasy's \$33 million plan, which creates remedial programs and revamps the turnaround specialist positions.

"Under the leadership of the new superintendent and new director of accountability, the district created new turnaround specialist positions whose sole responsibilities were devoted to restructuring schools,"

Advertisement

THE HOME DEPOT AND PENSKE MAKE MOVING EASIER

THE HOME DEPOT

LEARN MORE >

More saving. More doing.

the report says, adding that principals said their specialists "become part of the schools and were providing valuable resources to teachers and leadership teams."

Jennings said he has not lost faith in turnaround specialists, saying they might help improve schools as part of a comprehensive approach. In Prince George's, implementing a curricular reform program called America's Choice and ensuring that the lowest-performing schools have the highest concentration of highly qualified teachers have shown promising results, he said. Although the number of Prince George's schools designated as in need of restructuring has increased in recent years, the number undergoing any type of corrective action decreased dramatically this year.

"We've been thrilled," said Prince George's spokesman John L. White. "That's not to say there's not more work to be done, because there is, but the progress has been terrific."

Jennings said that efforts in Prince George's have had a positive effect on some underperforming schools but that, all in all, restructuring efforts have not had a significant impact on schools with chronically low test scores. Finding the answers, he said, will take more time.

"There's a lot of pressure on these schools from their school systems, the state, parents and the press; people are impatient," he said. "I believe eventually they will find the answers, but they have to work even harder."

[View all comments](#) that have been posted about this article.

Sponsored Links

Groupon.com Official Site

1 huge daily deal on the best stuff to do in your city. Try it today!
www.Groupon.com

RN Degree Programs

Attend Class Anytime Day or Night! Earn Your Degree in Nursing Online
www.DegreePath.com

Enter to WIN...

a 7 Day Alaska cruise! Plus, request your free Alaska Travel Guide.
www.hollandamerica.com

[Buy a link here](#)

© 2007 The Washington Post Company