

**A Toolkit for the Middle Schools: The Start of the Conversation**  
**September 2006 DRAFT**

Middle school students present special challenges when it comes to intervention. The greatest challenge in working with students reading below grade level is in finding suitable reading material – text that has high interest and is written at suitably low readability levels. It is crucial that all students have reading material at their ‘just right’ level and that means that middle school literacy teachers need to have a broad enough range of levels (in the full spectrum of topics and genres) to meet the needs of all of the students in the classroom. Additionally, we know from research that the use of certain targeted strategies will help students make progress in areas where they need to improve academic performance.

The New York City Department of Education’s intervention initiative offers as one of its features a toolkit of suggested assessments, materials and strategies the use of which is supported by scientifically-based research. Schools are encouraged to pilot other items and add them to the toolkit so that other schools can replicate their use. This document offers an initial toolkit for use in the middle schools. We will revisit this document periodically to add additional items.

<b>Target (Area and Level)</b>	<b>Program/Strategy and Source</b>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Phonics</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Development of this area typically occurs through grade 3 (learning to read stage), but should be provided to students who require it at any level</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Note that phonemic awareness instruction is provided within some of these programs</p>	<p><b>Assessment Tools:</b></p> <p>Gallistel-Ellis Test of Coding Skills (\$27, Montage Press, 1-203-488-4294</p> <p>Test of Word Reading Efficiency (TOWRE), \$123, PRO-ED, 1-800-897-3202, <a href="http://www.proedinc.com">http://www.proedinc.com</a></p> <p>Quick Reading Test (QRT) (\$400, Lexia Learning Systems, 1800-435-3942, <a href="http://www.lexialearning.com">http://www.lexialearning.com</a>)</p> <p>The Roswell-Chall (to be provided by RDIS)</p>	<p><b>Programs/Strategies:</b></p> <p>The Range of Orton-Gillingham-influenced explicit multisensory phonics programs, including:</p> <p>Wilson Reading (contact your ISS or RASE) <a href="http://www.wilsonlanguage.com">http://www.wilsonlanguage.com</a></p> <p>REWARDS (Reading Excellence: Word Attack and Rate Development Strategies) (Sopris West, <a href="http://www.sopriswest.com">www.sopriswest.com</a>) \$52 for t.g., \$56 for 10-pack of student bk.</p> <p>Megawords Program <a href="http://www.epsbooks.com">http://www.epsbooks.com</a></p> <p>Preventing Academic Failure (Educator's Publishing Service, 800-225-5750, <a href="http://www.epsbooks.com">http://www.epsbooks.com</a>)</p>	<p><b>Computer-based Options:</b></p> <p>Lexia Reading S.O.S. (9-adult, \$500) (800-435-3942, <a href="http://www.lexialearning.com">http://www.lexialearning.com</a>)</p> <p>EAROBIICS - version for older students (print materials with computer component) (distributed by Sussman Sales, 516-931-7755)</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fluency Needed at all levels</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment Tools:</b></p> <p><b>Assessment:</b> Fluency can be assessed through a variety of informal instruments, including Qualitative Reading Inventory (QRI-III) (Allyn &amp; Bacon, 201-236-7000, <a href="http://www.ablongman.com">http://www.ablongman.com</a>).</p> <p>GREAT LEAPS (described in next column) also contains an assessment component.</p>	<p><b>Programs/Strategies:</b></p> <p>Great Leaps Reading Program, Diarmuid, Inc., 1(877)-GRLEAPS, <a href="http://www.greatleaps.com">www.greatleaps.com</a></p> <p>Timed Readings Plus (choice of social studies or science text) Jamestown Publishers, <a href="http://www.glencoe.com">www.glencoe.com</a></p> <p>The Method of Repeated Readings (to be provided by RDIS)</p> <p>Concept Phonics Fluency Building Program (\$102/set) (Oxton House Publishers, 800-539-READ, <a href="http://www.oxtonhouse.com">http://www.oxtonhouse.com</a>)</p> <p>The Six Minute Solution: A Reading Fluency Program (\$69) (Sopris West, 800-547-6747, <a href="http://www.sopriswest.com">http://www.sopriswest.com</a>)</p> <p>Quickreads (Pearson Learning) <a href="http://www.pearsonlearning.com">http://www.pearsonlearning.com</a> )</p>	<p><b>Computer-based Options:</b></p> <p>Soliloquy (\$199-229) (866-442-0920, <a href="http://www.readingassistant.com">www.readingassistant.com</a>)</p> <p>Read Naturally (\$105 per level) (800-788-4085, <a href="http://www.readnaturally.com">http://www.readnaturally.com</a>)</p>
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<p><b>Comprehension</b></p> <p><b>Needed at all levels</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment Tools:</b></p> <p>GROW Report</p> <p>Gates-MacGinitie Reading Test-4<sup>th</sup> edition (\$75 for 25 tests + \$20 for scoring manual) (Riverside Publishing, 800-323-9540, <a href="http://riverpub.com">http://riverpub.com</a>)</p> <p>Good informal reading inventories such as:</p> <p>Qualitative Reading Inventory (QRI-III) (\$47, Allyn &amp; Bacon, 201-236-7000, <a href="http://www.ablongman.com">http://www.ablongman.com</a> or \$32.90 from <a href="http://www.Amazon.com">www.Amazon.com</a>)</p> <p>Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) \$169.50/grades 4-8 (Pearson Learning Group, 800-526-9907, <a href="http://www.pearsonlearning.com">http://www.pearsonlearning.com</a>) (DRA also has a "Bridge Pack" for very low-level readers)</p>	<p><b>Programs/Strategies:</b></p> <p>Metacognitive Strategy Instruction, including use of a variety of strategic reading strategies such as Deschler strategies (<i>Teaching Adolescents with Learning Disabilities</i>, Love Publishing); student self-questioning strategies, teacher modeling/think aloud/think along, use of semantic organizers; scaffolded instruction; Reciprocal Teaching; mnemonics; self-monitoring; and others. (Note that these strategies can be integrated into the regular mini-lessons planned by teachers for in-class differentiated instruction.) (information provided by RDIS)</p> <p>Intervention Binder <i>Reading Skills and Strategies-Reaching Struggling Readers</i> (Kylene Beers) Holt, Rinehart and Winston</p> <p>FROM <i>CLUNK TO CLINK: COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIC READING</i> (\$25, SOPRIS WEST, 800-545-6747, <a href="http://www.sopriswestl.com">http://www.sopriswestl.com</a>)</p> <p><i>THINK ALONG</i> program by Roger Farr (grade 3 and up) (Steck-Vaughn)</p> <p>Anita Archer's <i>SKILLS FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS</i> (Curriculum Associates)</p>	<p><b>Computer-based Options:</b></p> <p>BRAIN COGS (for grades 5 and up) (\$149.95, Fablevision, Inc., 888-240-3734, <a href="http://www.braincogs.com">http://www.braincogs.com</a>)</p> <p>Read 180 (Scholastic)</p> <p>Jamestown Reading Navigator (McGraw-Hill) web-based option</p>
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<p><b>Vocabulary</b></p> <p><b>Needed at all levels</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment Tools:</b></p> <p>Princeton Interim Assessments</p> <p>GROW Report</p>	<p><b>Programs/Strategies:</b></p> <p>Formal vocabulary instruction such as those created by Curtis or Culyer</p> <p>Methods described in <i>Bringing Words to Life</i> by Isabel Beck</p> <p>Educator's Publishing Service selections such as <i>Wordly Wise</i>, <i>Vocabulary from Classical Roots</i>, <i>Words Are Wonderful</i></p> <p>ESL strategies for vocabulary acquisition and retention, including Deborah Short's SIOP model; Aida Walqui's strategies; Pauline Gibbons's <i>LEARNING TO LEARN IN A SECOND LANGUAGE</i>] consult your Bilingual ISS for additional details; QTELL</p> <p>Steck-Vaughn <i>Vocabulary Workshop</i></p>	<p><b>Computer-based Options:</b></p> <p>Read 180 (Scholastic) (uses video clips to provide vocabulary and prior knowledge for use prior to reading a particular passage)</p> <p>KidBiz/TeenBiz (Achieve 3000)</p>
<p><b>Math</b></p> <p>Please refer to the 45-program Mathematics Intervention Toolkit disseminated through your Mathematics RIS.</p>			
<p><b>Mixed-use Programs</b></p> <p>(More information available through your RDIS)</p>	<p><i>Read 180</i> (Scholastic)</p> <p>Jamestown Reading Navigator (McGraw-Hill)</p> <p><i>Reading Advantage</i> by Laura Robb (Great Source)</p> <p>Holt Intervention Binder by Kylene Beers (Holt, Rinehart &amp; Winston)</p>		
<p><b>Organizational and Study Skills</b></p>	<p>Anita Archer's <i>Skills for School Success</i> (Curriculum Associates) (used in the Power Lunch Program at PS 6)</p> <p>Kaplan Study Skills Program</p>		