This document connects the practices recommended in "Improving Adolescent Literacy: Effective Classroom and Intervention Practices: A Practice Guide"* (2008, Institute of Education Sciences) to specific Strategic Instruction Model® interventions.

CONNECTING THE DOTS

SIM Strategic Instruction Model®

Improving Adolescent Literacy: Effective Classroom and Intervention Practices

Recommendation 1: Provide Explicit Vocabulary Instruction
How: Make it a part of not only reading and language arts but also content classes
Why: Strengthens independent skills of constructing meaning of text

Actions	SIM Interventions/Other Interventions	
• Dedicate class time regularly • Repeat exposure—orally and in written context • Provide opportunities for students to use vocabulary • Instruct vocabulary strategies for independent student use	• • •	• • •

Recommendation 2: Provide Direct and Explicit Comprehension Strategy Instruction
How: Instruct in routines and procedures to make sense of text; model and provide explanations; provide opportunities for active participation
Why: Improve students' reading comprehension to make sense of text

Actions	SIM Interventions/Other Interventions	
• Have available a variety of texts of varying reading levels • Model content-specific strategies • Clarify the goal, not just the process • Frontload and teach the strategy with the content in mind	• • •	• • •

Recommendation 3: Provide Opportunity for Extended Discussion of Text Meaning and Interpretation

How: Focus conversations to build deeper understanding of author's meaning, reasoning,
or conclusions and to build higher-order thinking skills
Why: Improves students' reading comprehension and making sense of text

Actions	SIM Interventions/Other Interventions	
• Develop questions that link the content (units, lessons, course) • Model through think-aloud process how to explain positions, reasoning, counterargument • Recognize good reasoning • Establish a safe, supportive setting that invites discussion	• • •	• • •

Recommendation 4: Increase Student Motivation and Engagement in Literacy Learning

How: Build student confidence in ability to comprehend and learn from content-area texts; praise effort, not knowledge
Why: Focus students on authentic, personally meaningful learning goals

Actions	SIM Interventions/Other Interventions	
• Provide informational feedback • Give students voice and choice • Set high performance goals connecting instructional practice and student performance • Connect students with an adult at the school	• • •	• • •

Recommendation 5: Make available intensive and individualized interventions for struggling readers that can be provided by trained specialists

How: Develop literacy profile through diagnostic tests to select intervention
Why: Accelerate literacy development of at-risk students through identification of strengths and challenges

Actions	SIM Interventions/Other Interventions	
• Follow the program: explicit steps, guided instruction, student interaction, self-regulation, and transfer • Explicitly use graphic organizers • Implement less intensive strategies in content areas and scaffold use • Access resources	• • •	• • •

http://kucrl.org/sim

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