

MEMO TO: Title I Authorized Representatives/Coordinators/Teachers
FROM: Laurie Matzke, Director, Title I
DATE: October 2005
RE: Research Based Documentation Tool

In the *No Child Left Behind* Act, the phrase “scientifically based research” appears one hundred and eleven times. The law states that Title I programs must “use effective methods and instructional strategies that are based on scientifically based research that strengthens the core academic program of the school” (section 1115, c (1) c). Clearly, the new law requires educators to use research to guide planning and instruction.

All Title I programs, both targeted assistance and schoolwide, must use instructional strategies and methods that have been proven by scientifically based research to have a positive impact on student performance. In addition, all schools that receive Title I funds must provide documentation as to how the programs and strategies they employ are based on research. When schools are monitored, they need to be able to provide documentation to show compliance.

Understandably, teachers are extremely busy and don’t necessarily have time to spend conducting research. Therefore, over the summer, the State Title I office contracted with four North Dakota educators. These individuals were contracted to conduct research as to what instructional strategies, programs, or activities have research to support their effectiveness. Using a template, they created a document for North Dakota Title I personnel which lists effective instructional activities, strategies, and examples that are typically utilized by Title I personnel with Title I funds. Most importantly, they then cited the research which supports each activity.

It is important to note that it is not mandatory that schools use this resource. This document was developed as one resource for Title I personnel that could be utilized to document compliance with the regulation to employ research proven strategies in Title I programming. In addition, please note that four different educators helped to create this document, therefore, each person’s individuality and style are reflected. This explains why the different sections vary slightly.

I would like to acknowledge and commend the four North Dakota educators who created this document.

- Paula Rogers, Title I Teacher
Langdon Area Public School District
Reading Section
- Toni Stith, Math Specialist
Fargo Public School District
Math Section
- Vicki Held, Title I Teacher
North Central Rock Lake Public School District
Reading Section
- Tanya Lunde-Neumiller, Consultant
Bismarck
Other Section

This research based documentation tool can also be access on the Title I website at <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/research.shtm>.

If you have any questions or comments, please e-mail me at lmatzke@state.nd.us or give me a call at (701) 328-2284.