

Abstract

Project Title: United2Read: Scaling Personalized Literacy Instruction to Ensure Strong Student Achievement

Type of Grant Requested: Expansion

Absolute Priorities: 1. Supporting High-Need Students and 2. Evidence-Driven Practices

Number Students Served: 100,000 students in 300 schools

Grade Levels Served: K-3

Project Description: Many high need students do not achieve literacy proficiency because they do not receive effective personalized literacy instruction during the early elementary grades. The A2i professional support technology, with strong evidence of effectiveness, is a data-driven system that was designed by and for teachers. Our driving question is, how do we bring A2i and effective evidence-driven literacy instructional practices to classrooms across the nation?

Objectives and Outcomes: (1) Achieve strong student literacy outcomes for high need students, using the A2i professional support system at over 300 schools across the nation serving over 100,000 students; (2) Identify and remove critical barriers to scale. The principal barrier is cost and to that end, we will (a) customize school support using the Literacy Scan; (b) conduct an independent evaluation of the professional development (PD) protocols to test the cost effectiveness of moving to technology-based PD; (c) investigate how IBM-Watson can facilitate administrative processes. Bringing A2i to scale will lead to stronger student literacy outcomes for high need students, with the aim of 90% reading at grade level by third grade, and improve district, school and teacher capacity. National and regional centers will sustain United2Read's mission after the funding period.

Special Project Features: A2i technology has integrated online adaptive assessments that drive algorithms that compute recommended amounts and types of literacy instruction for each student. A2i has imbedded lesson planning, data visualization tools and online PD tools.

Implementation Sites: RCT: 70 schools in NY, PA, LA, CA, AZ including League of Innovative & KIPP schools; 300 by end of project.

Partners: National Center for Research in Advanced Information and Digital Technology, UC Irvine, Learning Oventions, MDRC