

Hawkeye Joins Statewide STAR Initiative

STudent Achievement in Reading (STAR) was created at the federal level to assist states and local adult education and literacy programs in making systemic and instructional changes required to improve the reading achievement of intermediate-level (grade level equivalents of 4.0-8.9) adult learners. Adult learners at the intermediate reading level who are enrolled in Hawkeye's English Language Learning or High School Completion Programs will be eligible for STAR reading instruction. STAR provides teachers and administrators with web-based tools that translate reading research into practice, and high-quality training and technical assistance to build capacity for reading reform. STAR focuses on implementing evidence-based practices to provide adults with the reading skills they need to achieve their goals in school, the workplace, and their daily lives.

STAR will help adult education teachers and administrators improve reading outcomes among intermediate-level learners so that they can succeed in the workplace as well as in their daily lives.

STAR is not a reading curriculum. It is a reading reform initiative that includes professional development, tools, and resources that will expand your knowledge of effective reading instruction and improve your ability to build local and state adult basic education systems that support reading improvement.

Through STAR, adult education reading instructors and administrators will:

- understand the elements of evidence-based reading instruction;
- identify necessary resources including staff, time, materials, space, and feedback mechanisms; and
- develop systems and procedures at the classroom, program, and state levels that support the implementation of evidence-based practices; and
- make systemic changes to sustain evidence-based reading instruction.

STAR reading is used across the United States; Iowa began implementation four years ago. DMACC piloted STAR and each year more community colleges have joined the initiative. Hawkeye has begun STAR implementation this school year. High School Completion Program Language Arts instructor Kris Brunkhorst, ELL instructor Tara Plouff, and administrator Sandy Jensen participated in the first of three STAR Institutes on September 22-23 in Des Moines. We will pilot a STAR reading class in early 2017. Other colleges beginning STAR implementation this year are NIACC and Iowa Lakes.