

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 5:56 PM
To: info@whatworks.ed.gov
Subject: IES Website: Contact Us: Topic Areas, Beginning Reading Review, Reference
ID Number: 2076267247

info@whatworks.ed.gov, this email was automatically sent through the Contact link on the WWC website.

From: (b)(6)

Message: My goodness, What good does your organization do if none of the Reading Programs studies meet your standards. My wife teaches and loves the results from Reading Mastery. Really, either you folks standards are impossible or the textbook companies are not interested in having you make a determination. Either way you are of no help. I am a very strong proponent of government being able to make a positive difference. But gee, after all of this time you can't give the slightest bit of advice as to which programs work best? If you need some advice on how to do it. just ask. John Griffin.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: John Griffin (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 10:36 AM
To: WhatWorks
Subject: Re: What Works Clearinghouse (WWCPC 2175)
Hey folks,

Let me not make this too complicated.

After 8 years of study you have not found any regular reading program that fits the requirements of your research criteria that has had a positive impact of student learning?

Didja ever think that maybe those requirements are so strict as to make the effort a hopeless cause?

Perhaps it is the textbook authors who really don't care to provide the info you are looking for, maybe they like selling new series of texts or programs every few years. But for you guys to spend 8 years studying them, without ever coming to a conclusion is the exact problem some people have with the government being involved in education.

Honest, my wife and I are both government workers. We like to believe that government agencies can be a positive force in there kinds of places.

So I am sorry to give you a hard time with this because I doubt if it has been your personal responsibility to do things this way. But you guys are not being paid to study the issue forever, you are being paid to help school districts find those courses that are most effective at teaching kids.

At least in the area of beginning reading for the average classroom. You have not provided any of the information that you were set up to provide. Reading recovery is the exception but that does not apply to the regular classroom.

Who do I need to talk to? My Senators? My congressman? Arne Duncan? Who can change things so you can do the job you were set up to do?

Or are the lobbyists from the textbook companies the ones who set up the criteria knowing that it would so completely tie your hands that you'd never be able to do what you were set up to do?

My wife teaches at (b)(6) Elementary School. They are presently trying hard to decide which reading program will do the best for their students. That seems to be exactly the information that your program was set up to provide.

Go ahead, try to find one review on your site of a beginner reading program that works best for average k-2 students. Please let me know what that is.

John Griffin, Manitowoc, Wisconsin

--- On **Fri, 5/21/10**, WhatWorks <WhatWorks@icfi.com> wrote:

From: WhatWorks <WhatWorks@icfi.com>
Subject: What Works Clearinghouse (WWCPC 2175)
To: (b)(6)
Date: Friday, May 21, 2010, 9:34 AM

Hello,

Thank you for contacting the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC). The WWC conducts systematic reviews of outcome research in several different topic areas and publishes the findings on our website. We aim to promote informed education decision making through our reviews. By identifying which education studies meet rigorous research standards, the WWC is intended to help education decision makers differentiate high-quality research from weaker research and promotional claims. Additionally, the WWC is intended to identify those interventions and practices about which there is little or no rigorous evidence. Please note that the WWC and the U.S. Department of Education do not endorse interventions, programs, or practices.

You may find information on the WWC review of Reading Mastery under the Beginning Reading topic on our website at http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/reports/beginning_reading/rdgmastery/index.asp. No studies of Reading Mastery that fell within the scope of the Beginning Reading review meet WWC evidence standards. The lack of studies meeting WWC evidence standards means that, at this time, the WWC is unable to draw any conclusions based on research about the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of Reading Mastery. You may access WWC resources related to Beginning Reading on our website available at <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/reports/topic.aspx?tid=01>. From this page on the Beginning Reading topic, you may find a full listing of interventions reviewed and the review protocol. Please note that there are interventions that have been reviewed under the Beginning Reading topic area that have studies that meet WWC evidence standards.

What Works Clearinghouse

The What Works Clearinghouse was established by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences to provide educators, policymakers, researchers, and the public with a central and trusted source of scientific evidence of what works in education. For more information, please visit <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 5:56 PM

To: info@whatworks.ed.gov

Subject: IES Website: Contact Us: Topic Areas, Beginning Reading Review,

Reference ID Number: 2076267247

info@whatworks.ed.gov, this email was automatically sent through the Contact link on the WWC website.

From: (b)(6)

Message: My goodness, What good does your organization do if none of the Reading Programs studies meet your standards. My wife teaches and loves the results from Reading Mastery. Really, either you folks standards are impossible or the textbook companies are not interested in having you make a determination. Either way you are of no help. I am a very strong proponent of government being able to make a positive difference. But gee, after all of this time you can't give the slightest bit of advice as to which programs work best? If you need some advice on how to do it. just ask. John Griffin. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: WhatWorks

Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 9:34 AM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: What Works Clearinghouse (WWCPC 2175)

Hello,

Thank you for contacting the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC). The WWC conducts systematic reviews of outcome research in several different topic areas and publishes the findings on our website. We aim to promote informed education decision making through our reviews. By identifying which education studies meet rigorous research standards, the WWC is intended to help education decision makers differentiate high-quality research from weaker research and promotional claims. Additionally, the WWC is intended to identify those interventions and practices about which there is little or no rigorous evidence. Please note that the WWC and the U.S. Department of Education do not endorse interventions, programs, or practices.

You may find information on the WWC review of Reading Mastery under the Beginning Reading topic on our website at

http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/reports/beginning_reading/rdgmastery/index.asp.

No studies of Reading Mastery that fell within the scope of the Beginning Reading review meet WWC evidence standards. The lack of studies meeting WWC evidence standards means that, at this time, the WWC is unable to draw any conclusions based on research about the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of Reading Mastery. You may access WWC resources related to Beginning Reading on our website available at

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/reports/topic.aspx?tid=01>. From this page on the Beginning Reading topic, you may find a full listing of interventions reviewed and the review protocol. Please note that there are interventions that have been reviewed under the Beginning Reading topic area that have studies that meet WWC evidence standards.

What Works Clearinghouse

The What Works Clearinghouse was established by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences to provide educators, policymakers, researchers, and the public with a central and trusted source of scientific evidence of what works in education. For more information, please visit <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 5:56 PM

To: info@whatworks.ed.gov

Subject: IES Website: Contact Us: Topic Areas, Beginning Reading Review,

Reference ID Number: 2076267247

info@whatworks.ed.gov, this email was automatically sent through the Contact link on the WWC website.

From: (b)(6)

Message: My goodness, What good does your organization do if none of the Reading Programs studies meet your standards. My wife teaches and loves the results from Reading Mastery. Really, either you folks standards are impossible or the textbook companies are not interested in having you make a determination. Either way you are of no help. I am a very strong proponent of government being able to make a positive difference. But gee, after all of this time you can t give the slightest bit of advice as to which programs work best? If you need some advice on how to do it. just ask. John Griffin. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: WhatWorks

Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 4:18 PM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: Re: What Works Clearinghouse (WWCPC 2175)

Dear Mr. Griffin,

The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) Quality Review Team is preparing a written response to your May 21st email. The Quality Review Team responds to concerns raised by study authors, curriculum developers or other relevant parties about WWC reviews published on our website. These quality reviews are undertaken when concerned parties present evidence that a WWC review may be inaccurate. When a quality review is conducted, a researcher who was not involved in the initial review undertakes an independent assessment of the review/study in question. The researcher also investigates the procedures used and decisions made during the original review. If a quality review concludes that the original review was flawed, a revision will be published. These quality reviews are one of tools used to ensure that the standards established by the Institute of Educational Sciences (IES) are upheld on every review conducted by the What Works Clearinghouse.

Thank you,

What Works Clearinghouse

The What Works Clearinghouse was established by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences to provide educators, policymakers, researchers, and the public with a central and trusted source of scientific evidence of what works in education. For more information, please visit <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>.

From: John Griffin [mailto:(b)(6)]

Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 10:36 AM

To: WhatWorks

Subject: Re: What Works Clearinghouse (WWCPC 2175)

Hey folks,

Let me not make this too complicated.

After 8 years of study you have not found any regular reading program that fits the requirements of your research criteria that has had a positive impact of student learning?

Didja ever think that maybe those requirements are so strict as to make the effort a hopeless cause?

Perhaps it is the textbook authors who really don't care to provide the info you are looking for, maybe they like selling new series of texts or programs every few years. But for you guys to spend 8 years studying them, without ever coming to a conclusion is the exact problem some people have with the government being involved in education.

Honest, my wife and I are both government workers. We like to believe that government agencies can be a positive force in these kinds of places.

So I am sorry to give you a hard time with this because I doubt if it has been your personal responsibility to do things this way. But you guys are not being paid to study the issue forever, you are being paid to help school districts find those courses that are most effective at teaching kids.

At least in the area of beginning reading for the average classroom. You have not provided any of the information that you were set up to provide. Reading recovery is the exception but that does not apply to the regular classroom.

Who do I need to talk to? My Senators? My congressman? Arne Duncan? Who can change things so you can do the job you were set up to do?

Or are the lobbyists from the textbook companies the ones who set up the criteria knowing that it would so completely tie your hands that you'd never be able to do what you were set up to do?

My wife teaches at (b)(6) Elementary School. They are presently trying hard to decide which reading program will do the best for their students. That seems to be exactly the information that your program was set up to provide.

Go ahead, try to find one review on your site of a beginner reading program that works best for average k-2 students. Please let me know what that is.

John Griffin, Manitowoc, Wisconsin

--- On **Fri, 5/21/10, WhatWorks** <WhatWorks@icfi.com> wrote:

From: WhatWorks <WhatWorks@icfi.com>
Subject: What Works Clearinghouse (WWCPC 2175)
To: [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, May 21, 2010, 9:34 AM

Hello,

Thank you for contacting the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC). The WWC conducts systematic reviews of outcome research in several different topic areas and publishes the findings on our website. We aim to promote informed education decision making through our reviews. By identifying which education studies meet rigorous research standards, the WWC is intended to help education decision makers differentiate high-quality research from weaker research and promotional claims. Additionally, the WWC is intended to

identify those interventions and practices about which there is little or no rigorous evidence. Please note that the WWC and the U.S. Department of Education do not endorse interventions, programs, or practices.

You may find information on the WWC review of Reading Mastery under the Beginning Reading topic on our website at

http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/reports/beginning_reading/rdgmastery/index.asp. No studies of Reading Mastery that fell within the scope of the Beginning Reading review meet WWC evidence standards. The lack of studies meeting WWC evidence standards means that, at this time, the WWC is unable to draw any conclusions based on research about the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of Reading Mastery. You may access WWC resources related to Beginning Reading on our website available at <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/reports/topic.aspx?tid=01>. From this page on the Beginning Reading topic, you may find a full listing of interventions reviewed and the review protocol. Please note that there are interventions that have been reviewed under the Beginning Reading topic area that have studies that meet WWC evidence standards.

What Works Clearinghouse

The What Works Clearinghouse was established by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences to provide educators, policymakers, researchers, and the public with a central and trusted source of scientific evidence of what works in education. For more information, please visit <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 5:56 PM

To: info@whatworks.ed.gov

Subject: IES Website: Contact Us: Topic Areas, Beginning Reading Review,

Reference ID Number: 2076267247

info@whatworks.ed.gov, this email was automatically sent through the Contact

link on the WWC website.

From: (b)(6)

Message: My goodness, What good does your organization do if none of the Reading Programs studies meet your standards. My wife teaches and loves the results from Reading Mastery. Really, either you folks standards are impossible or the textbook companies are not interested in having you make a determination. Either way you are of no help. I am a very strong proponent of government being able to make a positive difference. But gee, after all of this time you can t give the slightest bit of advice as to which programs work best? If you need some advice on how to do it. just ask. John Griffin. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

What Works Clearinghouse WWC

A central and trusted source of scientific evidence for what works in education.

September 2, 2010

Mr. John Griffin

(b)(6)

Reference: QR2010010

Dear Mr. Griffin:

Thank you for your inquiry concerning the WWC Beginning Reading topic area. In response to your email, we conducted a quality review. The WWC Quality Review Team responds to concerns raised by study authors, curriculum developers, teachers, or other relevant parties about WWC reviews published on our website.

In your email, you expressed concern regarding the limited number of reading programs that have been shown to be effective based on research consistent with WWC standards. In conducting our quality review, we determined that the following programs were determined by the WWC to be effective in improving general reading achievement for K-2 students: Accelerated Reader, Classwide Peer Tutoring, Little Books, and Success for All. In addition, Reading Recover has been determined by the WWC to be effective for at-risk K-2 students. You can access the WWC Intervention Reports for these programs at <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/reports/Topic.aspx?tid=01>.

In your email, you asked whether curriculum developers were involved in the creation of WWC standards. The standards were created by an independent research firm working collaboratively with the U.S. Department of Education's Institute for Education Sciences. The standards are based on scientifically sound, rigorous research practices.

Your email could be read to implicitly suggest that the WWC is responsible for the lack of reading programs that have been shown to be effective based on research consistent with WWC standards. The creation of reading programs and research on their effectiveness is outside of the scope of the WWC, which was created to assess the evidence on effectiveness. However, WWC staff frequently interact with teachers, other education professionals, researchers, and curriculum developers and, in the course of these interactions, WWC staff learned that WWC standards have actually promoted the creation of high quality research on effectiveness. As you might expect, the curriculum developers value the WWC rating their programs as effective. For this reason, they are now more likely to commission high-quality research on effectiveness. In addition, curriculum developers who find their programs are not effective may adjust their programs and then reassess effectiveness. In this manner, the WWC may actually contribute to the development of effective programs.

What Works Clearinghouse **WWC**

A central and trusted source of scientific evidence for what works in education.

Your email could also be read to question the value of a WWC finding that a program has “no studies meeting WWC standards.” On the contrary, WWC staff learned from school districts that these findings are helpful in decisions about adopting programs. In particular, the WWC provides a resource to these districts that helps them to assess research claims made by people seeking to sell a program.

I hope this letter has addressed your concerns. If you have other concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the WWC through info@whatworks.ed.gov.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Deborah Reed
WWC Quality Review Team

From: WhatWorks
Sent: Thursday, September 02, 2010 2:55 PM
To: 'John Griffin'
Subject: RE: What Works Clearinghouse (WWCPC 2175)
Attachments: Response 2010010.pdf


Dear Mr. Griffin,

Attached is a response to the questions you raised in your May 21 message to the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC).

Thank you,

What Works Clearinghouse

The What Works Clearinghouse was established by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences to provide educators, policymakers, researchers, and the public with a central and trusted source of scientific evidence of what works in education. For more information, please visit <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>.

From: John Griffin [mailto:
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 10:36 AM
To: WhatWorks
Subject: Re: What Works Clearinghouse (WWCPC 2175)

Hey folks,

Let me not make this too complicated.

After 8 years of study you have not found any regular reading program that fits the requirements of your research criteria that has had a positive impact of student learning?

Didja ever think that maybe those requirements are so strict as to make the effort a hopeless cause?

Perhaps it is the textbook authors who really don't care to provide the info you are looking for, maybe they like selling new series of texts or programs every few years. But for you guys to spend 8 years studying them, without ever coming to a conclusion is the exact problem some people have with the government being involved in education.

Honest, my wife and I are both government workers. We like to believe that government agencies can be a positive force in there kinds of places.

So I am sorry to give you a hard time with this because I doubt if it has been your personal responsibility to do things this way. But you guys are not being paid to study the issue forever, you are being paid to help school districts find those courses that are most effective at teaching kids.

At least in the area of beginning reading for the average classroom. You have not provided any of the information that you were set up to provide. Reading recovery is the exception but that does not apply to the regular classroom.

Who do I need to talk to? My Senators? My congressman? Arne Duncan? Who can change things so you can do the job you were set up to do?

Or are the lobbyists from the textbook companies the ones who set up the criteria knowing that it would so completely tie your hands that you'd never be able to do what you were set up to do?

My wife teaches at (b)(6) Elementary School. They are presently trying hard to decide which reading program will do the best for their students. That seems to be exactly the information that your program was set up to provide.

Go ahead, try to find one review on your site of a beginner reading program that works best for average k-2 students. Please let me know what that is.

John Griffin, Manitowoc, Wisconsin

--- On **Fri, 5/21/10, WhatWorks <WhatWorks@icfi.com>** wrote:

From: WhatWorks <WhatWorks@icfi.com>
Subject: What Works Clearinghouse (WWCPC 2175)
To: (b)(6)
Date: Friday, May 21, 2010, 9:34 AM

Hello,

Thank you for contacting the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC). The WWC conducts systematic reviews of outcome research in several different topic areas and publishes the findings on our website. We aim to promote informed education decision making through our reviews. By identifying which education studies meet rigorous research standards, the WWC is intended to help education decision makers differentiate high-quality research from weaker research and promotional claims. Additionally, the WWC is intended to identify those interventions and practices about which there is little or no rigorous evidence. Please note that the WWC and the U.S. Department of Education do not endorse interventions, programs, or practices.

You may find information on the WWC review of Reading Mastery under the Beginning Reading topic on our website at http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/reports/beginning_reading/rdgmastery/index.asp. No studies

of Reading Mastery that fell within the scope of the Beginning Reading review meet WWC evidence standards. The lack of studies meeting WWC evidence standards means that, at this time, the WWC is unable to draw any conclusions based on research about the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of Reading Mastery. You may access WWC resources related to Beginning Reading on our website available at <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/reports/topic.aspx?tid=01>. From this page on the Beginning Reading topic, you may find a full listing of interventions reviewed and the review protocol. Please note that there are interventions that have been reviewed under the Beginning Reading topic area that have studies that meet WWC evidence standards.

What Works Clearinghouse

The What Works Clearinghouse was established by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences to provide educators, policymakers, researchers, and the public with a central and trusted source of scientific evidence of what works in education. For more information, please visit <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 5:56 PM

To: info@whatworks.ed.gov

Subject: IES Website: Contact Us: Topic Areas, Beginning Reading Review,

Reference ID Number: 2076267247

info@whatworks.ed.gov, this email was automatically sent through the Contact

link on the WWC website.

From: (b)(6)

Message: My goodness, What good does your organization do if none of the

Reading Programs studies meet your standards. My wife teaches and loves the results from Reading Mastery. Really, either you folks standards are impossible or the textbook companies are not interested in having you make a determination. Either way you are of no help. I am a very strong proponent of government being able to make a positive difference. But gee, after all of this time you can t give the slightest bit of advice as to which programs work best? If you need some advice on how to do it. just ask. John Griffin.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)