



POWERUP
WHAT WORKS

powerupwhatworks.org

PD Support Materials

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is **PowerUp** WHAT WORKS?

A: **PowerUp** WHAT WORKS is a free, online professional learning environment that provides guidance for educators to maximize their technology investments to enhance student achievement. PowerUp offers “anytime, anyplace, any device” resources and tools for teachers, PD coordinators, teacher educators, and school leaders and administrators.

Q: What makes **PowerUp** WHAT WORKS unique?

A: **PowerUp** WHAT WORKS helps educators use technology to meet the needs of all students, including struggling students and students with disabilities. **PowerUp** draws on evidence-based practices to enhance teaching and learning in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics with an emphasis on Common Core State Standards.

Q: How do I access **PowerUp** WHAT WORKS?

A: **PowerUp** WHAT WORKS is free and doesn't require registration. Simply visit www.PowerUpWhatWorks.org and explore all of the valuable education resources that are available.

Q: How does **PowerUp** support the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)?

A: **PowerUp** helps strengthen instruction in ELA and Math, aligning evidence-based practices with CCSS:

1. ELA/CCSS Foundational Skills and Language strategies found in **PowerUp** include: semantic mapping, context clues, fluency and word analysis; Literature and Informational Text reading strategies include self-questioning, summarizing, and visualizing; and Writing strategies include prewriting, drafting and reviewing.
2. Math/CCSS strategies found in PowerUp include: Modeling (visual representation and modeling), Reasoning, (organizing, thinking aloud), Arguments and Precision (math language and interacting with peers) and Making Sense of Problems.

Q: Will **PowerUp** require a lot of additional work?

A: No. **PowerUp** WHAT WORKS is designed to work with your school's existing curriculum and practices. For instance, many schools already have a Leadership Team in place that is responsible for planning and supporting teachers with professional development and coaching. Furthermore **PowerUp** aligns with existing initiatives found in schools throughout the country. For example, **PowerUp** advances Tier 1 Response to Intervention efforts, integrates principles of universal design for learning (UDL), and aligns with Common Core State Standards.

Q: What can I find in PowerUp WHAT WORKS?

A: **PowerUp WHAT WORKS** contains a rich variety of resources to meet the needs and goals of everyone working at your school, ranging from teaching strategies and professional development guides all the way to system-wide technology implementation plans and support.

Resources for Teachers to enrich and differentiate instruction in English Language Arts and Math include:

- *Tech Matters Blog posts* on a range of topics with ideas you can use in your classroom today
- *Instructional Strategy Guides* on how to use and differentiate 17 ELA and Math evidence-based instructional strategies with technology
- *Multimedia Supports* such as slide shows, videos, multimedia podcasts, and infographics which illustrate effective technology implementation

Resources for Professional Development Coordinators and Teacher Trainers to facilitate professional learning sessions include:

- *A Facilitator Guide* on using and customizing PowerUp materials across a range of settings
- *PD Support Materials* to help you when launching and implementing PowerUp

Resources for School Leaders and Administrators to guide school-wide implementation of technology and ensure teachers have the resources and support they need to integrate technology into their classrooms include:

- *The Technology Implementation Practice Guide* which offers Leadership Teams best practice recommendations to foster school-wide technology implementation
- *Leadership Team Support Materials* that can be used to guide development, implementation and evaluation of a technology implementation plan

Q: How can PowerUp WHAT WORKS support my school's Leadership Team?

A: **PowerUp WHAT WORKS** guides your existing Leadership Team through three phases of technology implementation (Planning, Implementing and Sustaining). Throughout each phase, **PowerUp WHAT WORKS** offers your team resources to maximize technology implementation as it:

1. Works as a Leadership Team
2. Enhances the school vision and sets concrete goals
3. Gathers data to drive decision making
4. Defines a technology budget
5. Plans professional learning opportunities
6. Provides access to technology and support

See the *Technology Implementation Practice Guide* for additional information on how **PowerUp** can support your Leadership Team.

Q: What makes **PowerUp WHAT WORKS “evidence-based?”**

A: The development of **PowerUp** WHAT WORKS was guided by our review of nearly 3,000 research studies on educational practices in math, reading, writing and students with special needs, that could be enhanced by technology, in addition to over 1,000 reviews of research into technology implementation. The **PowerUp** approach places great weight on educational best-practices, and although over 400 of the studies reviewed focus on technology practices, PowerUp’s focus is on educational practices that can be enhanced by technology, rather than the other way around.

Q: How do I learn more about **PowerUp WHAT WORKS?**

A: Explore our website at PowerUpWhatWorks.org or contact Kristin Ruedel, PowerUp Field Support, at powerup@air.org.