



ONE TEAM. ONE GOAL.

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CEI's overwhelming strength is our ability to accelerate learning among the most at-risk students — those who are economically disadvantaged, those who have learning disabilities (including dyslexia and dyscalculia), and/or those who speak English as a second language. We are better at delivering accelerated results than any other program that we know about, and that is the major reason that our programs are absolutely perfect for Tiers II and III in a school's RtI implementation.

Do we rest on our laurels? Absolutely not! We want to keep getting better and better at what we do, and our ongoing goal is the continuous improvement of our products so that students learn what they need to learn at a faster and faster pace. The Spring/Summer 2009 issue of *SHARE Magazine* celebrated the remarkable achievements made by students in our labs last year, and those stories are exactly the nutrients that we need to rev up our engines for even better results!

As we were putting the finishing touches on this current issue of *SHARE* [Fall 2009], we received a newsletter from Houston's Youth Development Center (YDC), an after-school program for elementary and middle school children. Their front-page article celebrated their program's gains for last year — an impressive average growth of **1.7 grade levels** for the students in grades 2-4, and an absolutely terrific growth of **2.6 grade levels** for the students in grades 5-8! Given that the typical at-risk student gains six months or less in a year of instruction, YDC's implementation of *ELS* produced almost four times as much growth for the younger students and an amazing five times as much growth for the middle school students. Now, that is true acceleration!

In the past several years, we have done a number of things to improve the likelihood of greater and greater acceleration of student growth:

- 🔗 *ELS'* theme backgrounds and graphics make the screens more attractive and more motivational for the students, engaging them more in their work;
- 🔗 **CEI Direct** enables a lab facilitator to get immediate advice on appropriate placement of students in the programs, rather than having to wait for a lab visit;
- 🔗 The beginning-of-year refurbishment packets and the *Welcome Back Pack* have been scheduled so that they arrive in plenty of time so that labs can be operational the first day of school;
- 🔗 CEI's most current advice is for labs to run at least 45 minutes, five days per week for maximal time-on-task, one of the critical requirements for acceleration;
- 🔗 CEI no longer is recommending that all students take the *LET-II* test before they are placed in the program, again to allow more engaged time;
- 🔗 The new *Integrated ELS Placement*, or *Auto-Placement*, will prevent any student from having to work through lessons where

he/she already knows the content, saving time for exposure to more lessons and facilitating higher levels of mastery;

- 🔗 The addition of the Web-based Activity Center (WAC) enables students to add time-on-task at home or in other settings where computers are available;
- 🔗 CEI has changed the *ELS* mastery requirement from 100% correctness to 90%, enabling students who clearly understand the patterns in a particular Mastery Cycle to move forward more quickly;
- 🔗 We have conducted recent research to verify that our programs reflect the most current findings on what it is that accelerates learning: critical content, individualized instruction, direct instruction, distraction control, practice/repetition, fluency development, corrective feedback, chunking, and multisensory processing strategies;
- 🔗 CEI's Solutions Analysts participate in ongoing professional development so that they can support schools' efforts to accelerate learning;
- 🔗 Our *Administrators' Implementation Toolkit* and several *SHARE* articles emphasize the importance of implementation with fidelity — implementing the programs the way they were designed to operate — without which you will not get maximal results;
- 🔗 Our software goes through rigorous testing before release so that you have as close to a bug-free environment as we can possibly produce;
- 🔗 Our *User's Guides* and *Teacher's Manuals* reflect the emphasis on keeping students engaged and moving forward to every extent possible;
- 🔗 We focus our support program on supporting an effective implementation in every school — with an emphasis on producing high rates of acceleration in every school.

We suggest, recommend, emphasize, and even beg schools to implement the CEI programs at the earliest possible grade levels. The earlier a learning difficulty or disability is treated, the more effective an intervention is, the less expensive the treatment is, and, most importantly, the less damage occurs in the self-concept of the learner due to years of failure.

We invite all those involved in implementing our programs to provide us with your suggestions for other ways in which we can accelerate your students' learning. We are thinking about it all the time, but you are there observing many students with different issues, so we know that you will see things that we might not think of. Please just let us know, and we'll see what we can do.