The Stern Center for Language and Learning has an extensive Professional Learning program, offered through the Cynthia K. Hoehl Institute for Excellence within the Stern Center, providing a range of opportunities in structured literacy, social cognition, executive function and systems analysis for school change for both educators and school districts. Also, our multidisciplinary staff provides evaluations and instruction in all areas of learning for children, adolescents, and adults.

Central Vermont Supervisory Union • Model of Success

2013 - 2017 • A Four-Year Plan

K-5 teachers in all three elementary schools within the Central Vermont Supervisory Union participated in a robust, structured professional learning program of coursework and coaching across a hierarchy of literacy skill development. Results of school achievement testing showed strong student growth and a reduction in special education referrals.

One striking indicator of this success is that there were zero reading-related referrals for specific learning disabilities in special education at Williamstown Elementary School between 2015-18, a first for the school.

"Since implementation, more students each year are meeting targets on Universal Assessments in the area of foundational reading skills. For example, 72% of first grade students met or exceeded the Foundational Skills target on Universal Assessments in December, and the group is on track to meet the district goal of 80%.”

~ Michaela Martin, Co-Director of School Transformation

Current trends, using the district’s local assessment tool TRACK MY PROGRESS, show strong growth in reading from fall to spring/summer 2015-16, with gains maintained, if not enhanced, over the summer into the 2016-17 school year (a time when most students regress). This is likely due to summer services provided by district interventionists who had been trained in structured literacy by Stern Center staff over the past four years.

Results from the 2015-16 school year to the 2016-17 school year show evidence of strong growth in students’ foundational and reading comprehension skills across grades and schools.

"Nobody does what the Stern Center does to strengthen teachers’ expertise in literacy."

~ Michaela Martin, Co-Director of School Transformation

"Our students' phonemic awareness and understanding of language is amazing. Our instructional language is consistent and precise, and our teachers' confidence has never been greater.”

~ Jamie Kinnarney, Principal Williamstown Elementary School

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