



Issues Sheet

2010

What difference does Project CHILD® make for America's education needs?

America's public schools are in decline. International test score comparisons show that America's students are falling further behind. The United States must do better in creating a world class education system to prepare students for the jobs of the future in a global economy. This means recruiting and retaining effective teachers, and providing them with the tools and training to create the classrooms of tomorrow. It also means creating and showcasing new models of instruction that go beyond the standard textbook-driven classroom of the past. Project CHILD offers a new paradigm for teaching and learning in the elementary school, the place where the foundation for every student's success or failure is laid. Project CHILD is a proven innovation that starts young students on the road to success.

How does Project CHILD prepare students for 21st century competitiveness?

Some of the attributes for success in tomorrow's workplace include intellectual prowess, decision-making, teamwork, creativity, follow-through, and reliability. The CHILD model develops these important traits which are imbedded throughout the system. CHILD students learn to set goals every six weeks, work collaboratively with peers at learning stations, use technology as a daily learning tool, schedule their time productively, and evaluate their own progress in achieving goals and developing good work habits.

How does Project CHILD prepare teachers and principals for 21st century competitiveness?

CHILD teachers receive extensive training and on-site coaching to enable them to transform from the traditional role of "sage on the stage" to a more sophisticated role as "guide on the side." The training also includes an annual *CHILD Leadership Academy* which is a collaborative forum to support and sustain schoolwide innovation for principals, assistant principals, and on-site coaches. The *Annual CHILD Conference* offers continuing education for both teachers and school leaders from innovation experts.

How does Project CHILD impact teacher recruitment and retention?

Fewer of America's best and brightest college students are choosing teaching as their chosen profession. Those who do become teachers often leave within three years, citing the isolation, stress, and poor working conditions as the primary reasons. Project CHILD, however, uses a collaborative approach with teamwork and on-site coaching to support teachers as they transition to new and exciting roles. Beginning teachers report that the CHILD classroom management techniques keep them from becoming discouraged with the discipline problems that often drive other new teachers from the classroom. Beginning teachers also report that the

mentoring they receive from their CHILD cluster colleagues provides the support to sustain them in those stressful early years. Veteran teachers report that they feel more fulfilled and challenged in CHILD classrooms. Teachers who had been burned out and ready to leave feel renewed and eager to return year after year after becoming CHILD teachers.

How does Project CHILD fit with NCLB (No Child Left Behind)?

Project CHILD is a perfect fit. CHILD teachers are able to work more effectively to individualize and differentiate instruction so that no child falls through the cracks. The three-year continuous progress aspect of the CHILD model also assures that each child will make adequate yearly progress as defined by NCLB. CHILD teachers receive advanced training to become highly qualified subject experts.

How does Project CHILD work for students with special needs?

America's public schools have seen an up-tick in students with learning disabilities, behavior and attention deficits, and the inability to speak and understand English. The Project CHILD system has proven very effective in meeting the needs of children who have not been successful in standard traditional classrooms. The active learning and peer interactions that take place at the CHILD learning stations enable students to move and converse within a structured, yet positive and supportive environment. The variety of learning station activities helps all students learn the standards despite different learning styles. It appears that some learning disabilities can be overcome when the student has more opportunities to use technology and hands-on activities rather than a steady diet of lectures, textbooks, and workbooks.

Is Project CHILD closing the achievement gap for poor and minority students?

Disturbing trends across the country have identified a growing achievement gap for African American and Hispanic students when compared to White students. Project CHILD data has shown that both poor and minority students achieve at much higher levels in Project CHILD classrooms than do their peers in the traditional classrooms within the same schools. Project CHILD is closing the achievement gap and enabling more children to have a chance to achieve the American dream.



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