

Secondary Content Area Reading (SCAR) Readiness Activity

The SCAR readiness activity is designed to provide a compelling “why” for MTSS secondary reading; build background knowledge in the need for secondary reading instruction; and prepare secondary staff for MIBLSI’s Secondary Content Area Reading series. This document is intended to provide administrators and coaches resources to guide secondary teachers, paraprofessionals and itinerant staff through the readiness activity.

Overview Information

Most secondary teachers recognize the difficulties some of their students have in reading and comprehending the text required in their classrooms. A common concern of this same group of teachers, however, is meeting the increasing demands of the learning standards of their content. This readiness session includes a collection of learning experiences, such as video clips, articles, data and reflections intended to set the stage for addressing both the issue of student reading and content acquisition through the use of content area reading strategies. The readiness activities are designed to introduce secondary school staff to the rationale or “compelling why” of involving all teaching staff in the implementation of content-area reading strategies. In addition to validating teachers’ experiences with students who are poor readers, they will also be introduced to their role in addressing the more pervasive secondary issue that a vast majority of students still need to learn how to read to learn. Introduction to the process, as well as the role they will play is also highlighted.

The 40 to 45-minute set of activities gives District Implementation Teams, individual building principals, and/or coaches a set of resources to provide background knowledge on the need for a school-wide development of middle and high schools with a focus on improving learning through reading.

It is recommended that the activity be run at an all-staff meeting prior to the Tier 1 SCAR Training. Suggestions are provided below if a team needs to reduce the meeting time closer to a half hour.

Agenda

The agenda provides suggested pacing for the **Secondary Content Area Reading an Introduction** PowerPoint. Items in **bold** indicate a staff activity.

Topic	Time	Resource	Slide Numbers
Introduction slides	2 minutes	PPT	1-3
Adolescent Reading: Current Reality	2 minutes	PPT & Children of the Code Video (1:44)	4-6
Activity 1 –video reflection	5 minutes	PPT	7
Need for reading instruction	4 minutes	PPT	8-11
Adolescent Reading: Defining the Instructional Focus	5 minutes	PPT	12-15
Activity 2 – read, write, share	8 minutes	IES Practice Guide, Overview p. 4-5	16
MiMTSS TA Center Secondary Reading Supports	5 minutes	PPT	17-23
Activity 3 – read, complete sentence stems	5 minutes	Secondary Tier 1 Reading Components document	24
Resources	4 minutes	PPT	25-26

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