

# WOULD YOU LIKE ALL YOUR STUDENTS TO MASTER READING COMPREHENSION?

Knowledge Acquisition and Transformation Expansion (KATE)

## RESEARCH STUDY ON READING COMPREHENSION SUPPLEMENT FOR GRADES 4 & 5

Researchers at Texas A&M University have developed a **comprehensive reading comprehension intervention called KATE**. KATE pairs professional supports for teachers with a web-based tutoring platform to improve reading instruction and student comprehension.

This program has been extensively researched, with four studies reviewed by the What Works Clearinghouse showing that **KATE had strong positive effects on reading comprehension**. Studies show that 4th and 5th grade students had gains in general reading comprehension, students' main idea generation, and summarization skills. This study is funded by a U.S. Department of Education's Education Innovation Research (EIR) Expansion Grant and seeks to offer KATE to a more diverse and nationally representative sample.

- **We are seeking school district participants to pilot the program during the 2023-24 school year at no cost and participate in the research study.**

### WHAT IS KATE?

KATE can help support learning recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and help close achievement gaps. The program includes a supplemental web-based, adaptive tutoring intervention focused on reading comprehension for Grades 4 & 5. Study participants will also receive professional development and program implementation support throughout the year.

KATE is intended to develop literacy skills to understand all types of texts. The system teaches children how to select important ideas, generate a main idea, extend the main idea to a summary, and extrapolate inferences when reading narrative and expository texts. Vocabulary instruction is also provided in the web-based tutor. The software uses modeling, practice tasks, assessment, and scaffolding feedback and includes supports for Spanish-speakers.

- KATE is used as a supplement to the English language arts class session for 45-60 minutes per week on web-based platform.
- During classroom use (15 minutes daily) teachers instruct students using resources from the teacher library (over 1000 classroom materials including lesson guides, customized resources for popular textbooks, novels, and graphic organizers).
- Each child progresses at their own pace; teachers review progress and receive updates from the teacher dashboard.

### BENEFITS TO PARTNERING

- Free access to the KATE tutoring software (uses Chrome browser)
- Contains Spanish-language supports
- Appropriate for English learner students and students receiving special education services
- Free teacher professional development
- Two days of practice-based professional development including practice and connections to the schools' curricula materials.
- Coaching support for classroom implementation
- Teachers will receive \$1,000 for study activities

Contact the research team at [kate\\_literacy\\_study@wested.org](mailto:kate_literacy_study@wested.org) to learn more about this exciting opportunity.

### CURRENT REQUEST

We are seeking a **commitment** for district participation in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school year.

We are asking districts to commit to:

- Two or more schools in the district to implement the program and two or more schools to serve as control schools for the 2023-24 school year
- Control group schools will receive the intervention in the 2024-25 school year
- Implement the intervention thru 15 minutes of daily instruction and 60-45 minutes of student time on web-based platform 1-2 times/week
- Participation in KATE professional development and coaching
- Participate in study data collection including pre/post-tests and classroom observations