Dear Read&Write GOLD Implementation Team,

Thank you for your patience and your help with using Read&Write GOLD software with your students. So far the software is working at GWMS. The Hammond set up is not running yet but helpdesk is working to fix the problem. I hope that all four classes will be able to start earnest training by January 7th.

You know that many different programs are being used with our students with the expectation that they will help our students achieve academically. How can we know when a program is effective and when it is a waste of time? We can see what some of the programs seem to be doing for the students in our classes, but the only way to really determine effectiveness is to systematically implement a program or intervention and then study the results!

I have discussed the ACPS research procedures with Dr. Dawson of Monitoring and Evaluation. To determine the usefulness of this software for our students we will study the implementation in your classes. I need to know if you will be able to allow your students to use Criterion and for those in the targeted class, Criterion and Read&Write GOLD software at least one time a week until they have used the software for writing at least 12 -15 sessions (from 6 -12 weeks).

I anticipate:

1. Training one class of your students to use the software. (Initially.)
2. Using your other self-contain Language Arts classes as comparison groups.
3. Training the rest of your students and setting up electronic folders, after the initial 6 - 12 weeks.
4. Submitting each of the students' first rough drafts to Criterion to get the scores and feedback.
5. Setting up an electronic folder for each student to keep writing material.
6. Keeping Criterion feedback information in Word for analysis by using the copy-paste feature. These will be collected in the student electronic folders.
7. Saving each of the students' first rough draft and final draft of each writing piece in their electronic folder.
8. Analyzing your student's writing and creating graphs of their progress.
9. Ensuring that you have access to the data collected for your students.
10. Keeping longitudinal data of SOL reading and writing scores for the students, while in ACPS, at least through 8th grade.

I know this procedure sound like extra work, but please consider.

1. I will help with:
    a. Training- Read&Write GOLD.
    b. Writing classes at least 6 times.
    c. Setting up electronic folders.
    d. Saving Criterion Feedback.
    e. Saving first rough drafts and final drafts of the writing pieces
2. You will have concrete data for your student IEP reports and report cards!
3. You will help verify the usefulness of allowing student access to Read&Write GOLD software.
Please let me know if this sounds "do able" or if you have any concerns.

Thank you for your help!

Susan Kenney