

GF Educators, Inc.
Workshops and Step Up to the TEKS Book Series

Research Based

Step Up to the TEKS Book Series and Workshops focus on assessing the student's degree of understanding of a concept during instruction rather than whether the student knows how to tackle a specific multiple choice formatted question. The focus is to help teachers teach the standards instead of the test. GF Educators, Inc. strives to provide students engaging activities and to equip teachers with research-based strategies that allow them to develop additional engaging activities for ALL students.

Educators attempt to identify programs, practices and strategies that are research based. The challenge is often how the terminology "research based" is incorporated into the development of materials and to what extent the rigor and scientific methods were utilized. GF Educators uses the research composed by several recognized researchers including Robert J. Marzano, the Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McRel), the Access Center, and the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL). Mathematical strategies include identifying similarities and differences, summarizing and note taking, creating visual representation, immediate feedback, varied delivery styles, review for some and challenge for others materials, and visual-verbal-logical-bodily-musical approaches. Reading strategies include fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, rhyming, main idea, summarizing and text structure.

The instructional design and instructional content of the *Step Up to the TEKS* series are based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The research based content of the TEKS is based on 30 years of research based on the assessment of students with the Texas Assessment of Basic Skills (TABs), the Texas Educational Assessment of Minimum Skills (TEAMS), and the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAKS). Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills serve as the curriculum for the state of Texas; however, it is applicable and comparable to curriculum found in other states. GF Educators, Inc. is attempting to help teachers and administrators better understand what a "CLEARER" (more articulated assessment program), "FEWER" (focusing on fewer skills), "DEEPER" (addressing skills in a deeper manner), and with more "RIGOR" (critical reading and higher-level thinking) means when compared to effective teaching strategies. All materials are developed with an over-riding goal of helping teachers apply research to the teaching and decision making.

Resources:

An Education Research Primer: How to Understand, Evaluate, and Use It, Jossey-Bass, 2006, Lauer, P.A. with assistance of Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McRel)

Classroom Instruction That Works, ASCD, 2001, Robert J Marzano, Debra J. Pickering, and Jane E. Pollock

Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL) Celebrating 40 Years of Commitment to Quality Education, 2006, SEDL, <http://www.sedl.org/40years/>

The Access Center, Improving Outcomes for All Students K-8, "Considerations when Selecting a Reading Program," 2005 (May Issue), Access Center