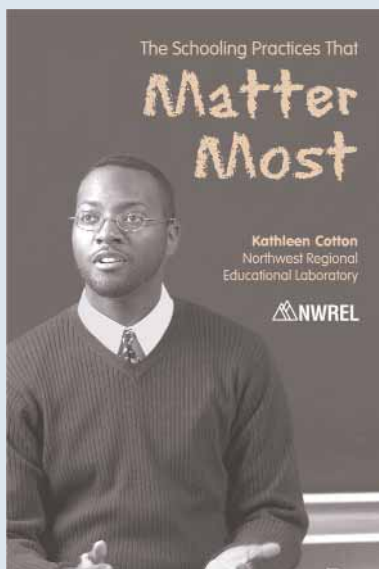


Popular Research Synthesis Reissued

Wouldn't it be convenient if the most important research on effective schooling practices were boiled down to one manageable, easy-to-read booklet? Good news—that's what is provided in the new edition of *The Schooling Practices That Matter Most*. Written by the late Kathleen Cotton, a nationally known and prolific NWREL researcher, this booklet is a perfect example of Cotton's talent for synthesizing and translating complex material.

In a concise 36 pages, *The Schooling Practices That Matter Most* suggests 15 well-researched attributes—10 contextual and five instructional—that together may hold the greatest promise for educating all students to high standards. The booklet describes each of the 15 practices, why it was selected, its relation to other identified practices, and key findings on how the practice impacts student performance. An extensive bibliography completes the user-friendly guide.



Cotton concludes the booklet noting, “The areas of practice identified here rest on considerable research weight, are entirely or partially school controllable, and most—though not all—can be implemented without significant new expenditures. We clearly owe it to educators and the public to share what we know about the relative effectiveness of possible arrangements and practices, and I trust that this paper helps define and impart that knowledge.”

The Schooling Practices That Matter Most can be ordered from NWREL's online product catalog—www.nwrel.org/comm/catalog/—or by calling 800-547-6339, ext. 519. ■

Conference Call

6+1 TRAIT® WRITING ASSESSMENT: INTRODUCTORY INSTITUTE

December 12–15, 2006
(Registration now open)
NWREL, Portland, OR

May 22–25, 2007
(Registration begins February 1, 2007)
Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA

In this four-day institute, participants will learn to use clearly defined scoring guides to evaluate K–12 student writing across seven dimensions of performance: ideas, organization, voice,

word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation. Participants will also learn how to implement trait-based instruction in the classroom.

Separate sessions will be tailored to the interests of K–3 teachers and those teaching grades 4–12. While K–3 teachers focus on understanding and implementing the traits at the primary level, grade 4–12 teachers will have the opportunity to develop curriculum maps and write lesson plans around the traits.

Participants may register for all four days of the institute or attend two days of either the grade 4–12 portion or K–3 portion. Registration is now open; see details at right.

6+1 TRAIT® WRITING ASSESSMENT FOR TRAINERS INSTITUTE

February 21–23, 2007
(Registration begins November 1, 2006)
NWREL, Portland, OR

This three-day advanced training of trainers institute is for those wishing to conduct 6+1 TRAIT training workshops in their own districts. The institute includes a review of the writing traits and strategies, lesson design, training considerations, and workshop planning. Previous training in the model is required.

For information on these and other 6+1 TRAIT trainings, contact Sharon Northern at 800-547-6339, ext. 572, or e-mail northern@nwrel.org. More details can also be found at www.nwrel.org/assessments/trainings.php ■