

APPENDIX H
INTRODUCTORY LETTER TO STATES

February ##, 2005

Dear _____:

I am writing to encourage your cooperation on an important study of reading comprehension curricula the U.S. Department of Education (ED) is sponsoring.

As you know, far too many students struggle with reading, particularly when it comes to comprehending the complex text used in many classes. Despite this, very little is known about the effectiveness of different approaches for teaching reading comprehension strategies to students. To help move our understanding in this area forward, ED is launching a national evaluation of reading comprehension curricula. This study will give educators valuable information about the effectiveness of up to four reading comprehension curricula.

This is the first national study of reading curricula, and it will be applying the most rigorous, scientifically-based methods. ED has contracted with Mathematica Policy Research, an experienced research firm, to conduct the study.

We hope that you will give participation in this important study fair consideration. If you have any questions about the study, please contact Dr. Wendy Mansfield, the study's deputy project director, at 1-888-535-0283 or at wmansfield@mathematica-mpr.com.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]