



New Report Shows Hope for Florida's Failing Third Graders
Project CHILD lowers third grade retentions in 12 Florida school districts.

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (26 January 2006) – The Institute for School Innovation (ISI) announces the release of a third party evaluation of its Project CHILD program conducted by EPPC Management (www.eppcmanagement.com). The EPPC report documents how Project CHILD's third graders in Florida far surpassed the state's 2005 third grade passing rate. While 10% of the state's third graders were held back, with another 10% promoted "for cause" even though they did not pass the FCAT, over 96% of the CHILD third graders with exposure to the program in prior grades passed the FCAT and were promoted to fourth grade. In addition, the vast majority of the CHILD students were from high poverty Title 1 schools.

"We continue to be encouraged by the CHILD student success data from these ongoing evaluations," said Dr. Sally Butzin, Director of the Institute for School Innovation and the creator of Project CHILD. "Previous evaluations by other independent bodies such as Florida TaxWatch have confirmed year after year that Project CHILD students excel in reading, as well as writing and mathematics. Our belief is reiterated by Governor Bush and Commissioner Winn who have often noted that reading is the cornerstone of educational success."

"It is well known that risk factors associated with juvenile delinquency are: 1) being over age in grade; 2) lack of reading competency; and 3) dropping out of school," said FSU Professor Dr. Steve Rollin, Co-Author of the report and Fellow of the American Psychological Association. "As demonstrated in our study and numerous others, Project CHILD clearly has the potential to ameliorate the reading problems associated with these risk factors."

Project CHILD, which stands for Changing How Instruction for Learning is Delivered, is an instructional model that focuses on reading, writing, and mathematics in the elementary grades (K-5). It uses teamwork and technology to create classrooms where students are highly engaged in active learning. Teachers work as subject specialists and stay with their students for three years. Project CHILD has grown from its initial roots at Florida State University in 1988 to become a recognized international exemplary program. Over 13,500 students are learning in Project CHILD.

About the Institute for School Innovation (ISI).

ISI (www.ifsii.org) is a private non-profit organization founded in 1995. The Institute engages in research and development to increase teacher effectiveness via technology and active learning. ISI disseminates several innovative instructional programs including Project CHILD (Changing How Instruction for Learning is Delivered), PC PLUS (Pathway Leading to Ultimate Success), Project TEAMS (Technology Enhancing Achievement in Middle School), Schools across the United States are using ISI's teaching and learning systems.