

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

## CUSTOMIZED STRATEGIC INSTRUCTION: PILOT SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

By

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Students who are not performing on grade level in reading have been the subjects of many remedial programs; however, few have worked with efficiency, timeliness, and high results. Customized Strategic Instruction blends the best practices of old into the new process for remediating students efficiently, quickly, and with phenomenal results. This study was implemented with 4<sup>th</sup>-grade students in an inner-city school. The target population was not performing on grade level in reading. Through differentiation of instruction, data disaggregation, strategic instruction, and personalized or individualized instruction, small instructional groups were formed to combat common reading deficits. Each grading quarter, the small instructional groups change, based upon the quarterly assessments given by the county. The results were surprising. The targeted population increased on grade level performance by 27% in 1 school year. During another implementation the following school year, although modified, the results were still remarkable. The 3rd grade increased 6%, 4th grade increased 20.7%, and 5th grade increased 21% in reading. Customized Strategic Instruction is an approach to remediation that combines best practices with small-group instruction for incredible results.