



Subject Matter Expert

Debra Berlin

Debra Berlin is a senior associate in PCG Education's Southeast office. She is a former special education, regular education, and alternative classroom teacher with experience at the elementary, secondary, district, and state levels. At PCG, Ms. Berlin focuses on literacy and learning, RtI, Common Core, and working with turnaround schools. She is an educational consultant for the Florida Charter School project, RtI and EdPlan™ projects. Additionally, she has provided professional development to thousands of educators throughout the U.S. and the Caribbean in the areas of literacy, motivation, effective teaching, increasing thinking skills, and creating engaging classrooms.

Expertise

- Special Education
- Literacy and learning
- Common Core
- Response to Intervention (RtI)
- School turnaround
- Curriculum writing

Experience

Prior to joining PCG Education, Ms. Berlin served as National Director of Literacy at Community Education Partners, a leading provider of academic and behavior improvement programs for public school students in grades 6 through 12 that is dedicated to decreasing dropout rates and increasing literacy in urban school districts. She has also worked with major publishers such as SRA McGraw-Hill to develop intervention reading materials and has served as an instructional coach, providing modeling and support in classrooms and working directly with teachers in underperforming schools. Ms. Berlin served as Curriculum Director for Secondary Reading for Fort Lauderdale, Florida, raising reading achievement in nearly 100 schools for the sixth largest school district in the U.S. She also worked for the Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR) overseeing educational assessment research projects. Prior to these positions, Ms. Berlin taught special education and worked as a peer counseling coordinator and elementary education instructional coach.

Publications and Presentations

- Council of Great City Schools. Presentation: "Secondary Literacy Plan for Assisting All Struggling Readers"
- Sopris West Summer Institutes in Literacy: "School-wide Planning for Literacy, Creating Literacy Teams, Vocabulary Building K-5, Helping Older Students Decode and Become Fluent Reader"
- Keynote: IAASE Response to Intervention Conference Illinois Department of Special Education
- Colorado Technology in Education Conference (TIE): "Raising Reading Achievement in a Technological Age: How to prepare students for the online skills they will need to succeed"
- Florida Technology in Education Conference (FTEC). "Their Future is Now: How to Prepare Students for the New Literacies"
- National Association of School Psychologist (NASP) Presentation: "What Every School Psychologist Should Know about Reading Difficulties"
- BOCES Suffolk N.Y. Workshop Presentation: "Raising Reading Achievement in Secondary Schools: A 5-Step Approach to RtI"
- PATTON Adequate Yearly Progress Conference Pennsylvania Department of Special Education Presentation: "Secondary Literacy"
- National Association of Secondary School Principals, (NASSP) Denver. Presentation: "What Really Matters in Increasing Adolescent Literacy "

Education and Certifications

Ms. Berlin holds a B.A. in Exceptional Student Education from University of Florida, Gainesville, an M.S. in Learning Disabilities Special Education from Nova University, Ft. Lauderdale, and certification in K-12 educational leadership from Florida Atlantic University. In addition, she has certifications in special education, ESOL, and Reading Endorsement.