

## Berwyn School District Study

In April 2014 the Berwyn North School District 98, near Chicago, Illinois, agreed to allow ECRA, an independent testing agency, to assess students in two sets of classrooms wherein one group of teachers served as the control group and received no IEW training or curricular resources, and the other group of teachers did. The demographics were similar for both groups tested at each grade level: predominantly English Learners with the majority of students classified as "economically disadvantaged." Training took place in July 2014 for twenty-seven teachers in the district. The training was open to any instructor who elected to participate.

The IEW-trained teachers received on-site training in the Structure and Style method:

- [Teaching Writing: Structure and Style](#) two-day seminar
- [Demonstration and Coaching Day](#)
- [Observation and Coaching Day](#)

They also received the following materials:

- [Teaching Writing: Structure and Style DVDs and Seminar Workbook](#)
- [Models for Imitation Level A](#)
- [Classroom Supplement and Lesson Plans Level A](#)
- [Student Writing Portfolio Level A \[Blackline Masters\]](#)
- [Student Reference Handbook \[Blackline Masters\]](#)
- [Classroom Posters](#)

The control group teachers continued to use the instructional materials they had used the previous year.

Using identical assessment tools (tests created by ECRA to meet Illinois State Standards/Common Core Standards), both groups of students in their respective classes were evaluated in the fall of 2014, and again in the spring of 2015, to determine if their writing scores were affected by practicing IEW's Structure and Style approach to teaching writing.

While both groups showed improvement, the test results demonstrated that students taught by IEW-trained teachers progressed significantly more than students in the control group (4th grade: 23% vs. 2%; 5th grade: 28% vs. 2%).

*ECRA Group ([ecragroup.com](http://ecragroup.com)) is a premier national consulting firm focused on assisting organizations in being more strategic in their quality improvement efforts. The Berwyn North School District 98, located just west of Chicago, Illinois, includes four schools that serve over 3,000 students in grades PK through 8. Results presented here are shared with permission from ECRA and the Berwyn North School District 98.*

### 5th Grade Avg Score

