

(703) 536-2310
Fax (703) 536-3225

Education **TURNKEY** Electronic Distribution, Inc.

256 North Washington Street
Falls Church, Virginia 22046-4549

MEMORANDUM

May 13, 2003

O

:

Page 1 of 2

TechMIS Subscribers

FROM: Charles Blaschke

SUBJECT: Special Report on What Works Clearinghouse and IDEA Reauthorization

Enclosed are two Special Reports which could have significant implications for most TechMIS subscribers. Both the What Works Clearinghouse and IDEA reauthorization are in their formative stages and can be influenced by subscribers directly or through associations with whom they are members.

The provisions in HR 1350, the House version of the IDEA reauthorization, would in a very subtle manner, force many districts to use IDEA funds to use scientifically-based programs and practices used in Reading First activities as interventions prior to placing students in special education programs. Districts may use up to 15 percent of their IDEA allocations for these purposes. Such programs would have to include the five components prescribed for qualifying Reading First programs.

The WW Clearinghouse's current design, planned procedures, and schedules for releasing evidence-based reports could have either positive or negative impacts on individual publishers. For those publishers of products which have been included in rigorous experimental control evaluations conducted by NICHD and a limited number of other groups and have been found to be effective as interventions, the news is good; the WW Clearinghouse teams will have to rely heavily on this

research base to meet their Fall 2003 and Spring 2004 report due dates. However, negative effects could be felt by publishers that:

- do not have evidence on effectiveness or purport to have evidence based upon research designs which are found to be inadequate by the WW Clearinghouse;
- have technology-based products which only indirectly result in increased performance in mathematics and reading;
- have new products and research on them reported in years outside the cycle the WW Clearinghouse in conducting reviews; and
- have products which are included in third party evaluations which are reported to the WW Clearinghouse but do not meet the rigorous standards for scientifically-based research.

If anyone has any questions as to specific strategies and contacts that should be made, please give me a call directly.