Table 5

A Rank-Ordered Comparison of the Most Frequently Mentioned Implementation Problems

Rank	*National Survey (N=202)*	*Surveys from Interview Sites (N=39)*
1	Developing support for the change effort with parents, teachers, and the principal	Having difficulty letting go of traditional grade-level thinking and instruction
2	Providing ongoing staff development	Developing support for the change effort with parents, teachers, and the principal
3	Assessing program changes with traditional measures such as standardized achievement tests	Lacking time for instructional and collaborative team and/or staff planning
4	Financing materials, instructional resources, staff development, and change-related costs	Assessing program changes with traditional measures such as standardized achievement tests
5	Lacking time for instructional and collaborative team and/or staff planning	Sustaining the multiage change effort through such activities as monitoring implementation, keeping abreast of new research, ensuring staff continuity, and ongoing refinement
6	Having difficulty letting go of traditional grade-level thinking and instruction	Placing students so there is a balance across a range of areas such as academics, behavior, and gender
7	Receiving school district support, especially in terms of knowing and	Having appropriate curriculum for addressing student diversity, including curriculum

	planning	implementation, keeping abreast of new research, ensuring staff continuity, and ongoing refinement
6	Having difficulty letting go of traditional grade-level thinking and instruction	Placing students so there is a balance across a range of areas such as academics, behavior, and gender
7	Receiving school district support, especially in terms of knowing and valuing the change through both words and deeds	Having appropriate curriculum for addressing student diversity, including curriculum frameworks
8	Overcoming staff and community resistance	(All remaining items had a consensus of two or fewer)
9	Forcing multiage education through top-down mandates, especially when the developmental differences of staff members are not considered	
10	Sustaining the multiage change effort through such activities as monitoring implementation, keeping abreast of new research, ensuring staff members continuity, and ongoing refinement	