

# **Professional Development Partnerships in Elementary and Middle School Reading**

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE**

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The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) establishes yearlong partnerships with local school systems (LSS) to help improve student achievement in elementary and middle school reading. Through collaborative planning, MSDE staff and the LSS staff design a series of professional development activities that address LSS needs. The activities focus on content and instructional strategies in reading and include workshops, classroom visits, and collaborative planning.

## **TARGETED PARTICIPANTS**

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This service is designed for teams composed of elementary and middle school principals, assistant principals, coaches, special education lead teachers, English Language Learner lead teachers, and department chairpersons.

## **ADVANTAGES OF PARTICIPATION**

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Visits to schools and conversations with school system staff reveal that many students are not engaged in assignments that are aligned to the Voluntary State Curriculum (VSC) nor are they taught in ways that enable them to demonstrate their achievement at the level of cognitive demand of the Maryland State Assessment. These instructional practices diminish student performance on local and state assessments. The partnerships will highlight strategies and content that will help to enhance instructional practices.

## **INTENDED OUTCOMES**

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As a result of this service, participants will:

- Gain a deeper understanding of the elementary and/or middle school Reading/English Language Arts VSC
- Learn strategies that will increase students' mastery of the content of the elementary and/or middle school Reading/English Language Arts VSC
- Build the capacity of central office staff and school teams to provide teachers with the professional development to effectively teach the content of the elementary and/or middle school Reading/English Language Arts VSC

## **SCHOOL SYSTEM AND SCHOOL ROLE/RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PARTICIPATION**

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School System Role/Responsibilities

- Share expectations for implementing the information presented at the professional development sessions provided by the MSDE with school based leadership teams

- Provide continuing support and professional development for principals as they work with their schools' staffs
- Monitor the schools' implementation of the information gained from the MSDE sessions through classrooms visits

#### School Role/Responsibilities

- Engage teachers in job-embedded learning activities to learn and apply the information presented at the sessions offered by MSDE
- Provide teachers with coaching and practice to support them in implementing knowledge and skills learned from school based professional development activities
- Monitor the teachers implementation of the content and instructional strategies presented at the school-based professional development sessions through classrooms visits

#### **MSDE CONTACT INFORMATION**

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