

Dear ISD Literacy Coaching Colleagues,

I am pleased to inform you about an exciting literacy coaching professional learning opportunity. We are continuing to offer Intensive Coaching Institutes aimed at enhancing your coaching skills. These are opportunities to practice and receive feedback on most of the *Essential Coaching Practices for Elementary Literacy* in real schools with real teachers and students. We've held eleven different 4-day Intensive Coaching Institutes in the past two years. **Our next Intensive Coaching Institute will be held in Constantine, MI in St. Joseph County from October 22-25, 2019.**

If you have not yet attended an Intensive Coaching Institute and you have supervisor approval, please consider completing the simple application. The benefits to your work are numerous and the supports we create for each other across the four days together are meaningful and lasting.

In order to meet the Intensive Coaching Institute Project's objectives and to not overburden the school in which we meet, each event will be limited to 12 participants. **Please complete the application form by Monday, October 7 at 4:00 p.m.)** All applicants will be notified via email by the evening of Tuesday, October 8. The application form is linked here: <https://forms.gle/Pta1CrpCm7yhrdyh8>

More Information

The main outcomes of the Intensive Coaching Institute Project are tied to *the Essential Coaching Practices for Elementary Literacy* [ECP] found on literacyessentials.org and include the following:

- Identify individual strengths related to literacy coaching and areas that could be strengthened
- Develop skills and paths to enhance
 - Literacy-specific coaching (ECP #6)
 - Coaching communication skills (mediating thinking with teachers) (ECP #2 & #3)
 - Small group/team level facilitation skills (ECP #3)
 - Communicating and gaining support from administrators (ECP #4)
 - Personal coaching goals for various roles (ECP #5 & #7)
- Develop a peer mentoring model for ongoing support

Some of the activities planned for the Intensive Coaching Project include the following:

- Professional development about the integration of two or more of the *Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy: Grades K-3* into instruction (e.g., integrating Essential #1 and Essential #6 into small group instruction, Essential #3)
- Active participation, with the support of the project facilitators and your coaching colleagues, in co-planning, implementing, and reflecting on instruction based on the

Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy: Grades K-3. The instruction will be delivered to small groups of students from our partnering school.

There are grant funds to cover the mileage and hotel room expenses of coaches who must travel to attend these institutes. Breakfasts will be available at the hotels, lunches will be provided each day, and one group dinner the first evening will be covered.

We believe that a participant will benefit most from the Intensive Coaching Project if she/he:

- Has had at least three years of teaching experience at the K-5th grade level
- Has attended the professional learning opportunities that have been made available to the coaching network.
- Is currently an ISD/RESA early literacy coach with a role that includes the coaching of individual teachers and/or mentoring of other coaches OR is a district coach who is working in collaboration with an ISD/RESA early literacy coach.
- Has had at least one year of coaching experience (**not** counting the 2019-2020 school year)
- Has obtained the approval of her/his supervisor to participate in the Intensive Coaching Institute.
- Will be able to **attend all four days of the Intensive Coaching Institute**. This is key because we plan our partnerships and small group activities based on having exactly 12 coaches participating each day.

One value-added component of this institute is the ability to work closely with coaches from different areas of the state across each of the four days. We plan these specific coach partnerships, teams, and interactions in advance. When selecting the final participants, we will attempt to include coaches who represent different geographic areas of Michigan and who work in schools that represent many diverse student populations.

If you have any questions about the Intensive Coaching Institutes, please email me at ebrown@gomasa.org.

We are looking forward to working with many of you as we expand this important project.

Sincerely,
Erin Brown, on behalf of the Intensive Coaching Institute Facilitator Team