

WSRA Position Statement

The Role of the Literacy Coach

The Wisconsin State Reading Association believes the role of the literacy coach is to provide professional development for staff in the implementation of best practice in reading and writing instruction throughout all curricular areas.

The Wisconsin State Reading Association believes the following criteria are essential for effective and successful literacy coaches.

School Literacy Coaches should possess the following background:

- Maintain in-depth knowledge of reading and writing processes, acquisition, assessment, and instruction;
- Possess a master's degree and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction 17 licensure;
- Be expert teachers of reading and writing, especially at the level at which they coach;
- Possess a strong understanding of adult and student learning;
- Have expertise in working with staff to improve their practices;
- Be excellent presenters and group leaders;
- Have the experience or preparation that enables them to promote reflective practices and support instructional staff through modeling, co-planning, co-teaching, observing, and providing collegial feedback about instruction.

In addition, Literacy Coaches should, in the course of their work:

- Foster relationships based on trust, confidentiality, and respect;
- Collaborate with teachers, administrators, and the District Reading Specialist to set and achieve specific professional development goals;
- Guide teachers to identify their own concerns, problems, and needs in their daily work by listening, planning, observing, and providing feedback;
- Connect teachers with resources and materials as needed;
- Evidence an understanding of the value of diversity in education;
- Model best practices in literacy;
- Guide teachers in the on-going formal and informal assessment of students and participate in on-going formative and summative assessment analysis to inform instruction and assure instructional differentiation to meet student needs at the classroom level.

This position statement of the Wisconsin State Reading Association has been adapted from the International Reading Association position statement on Literacy Coaching.

