

WSRA Position Statement

The Role of the District Reading Specialist

The District Reading Specialist (317) provides leadership and direction at the school and district levels working with teachers, administrators, students, and other community members to design, implement, coordinate, and evaluate a comprehensive reading program. The school-wide reading program includes: developmental, intervention and content area reading that integrates the language arts thoroughly and completely across the curriculum.

Therefore, the Wisconsin State Reading Association believes the following components are essential to a successful reading/language arts program.

The District Reading Specialist should:

- Act as instructional leader in guiding, directing, modeling, and supervising literacy instruction across the K-12 curriculum.
- Work collaboratively with administration to develop, implement, and coordinate a comprehensive K-12 Reading/Language Arts program.
- Annually evaluate the comprehensive Reading/Language Arts program and report to the school board.
- Provide data driven staff development.
- Act as a resource in Reading/Language Arts for teachers, parents, administrators, and community members.
- Collaborate with state and local administration on all assessment initiatives.
- Disseminate materials and information on current evidence-based research related to Reading/Language Arts across the curriculum and at all grade levels.
- Be active in professional educational associations related to Reading/Language Arts, including regular participation in conferences, workshops, and other staff development opportunities.
- Promote effective use of technology within K-12 reading programs.
- Interact with students (where time allows) in an instructional capacity within a variety of settings.

The degree to which, and the frequency with which any one or all of these roles are fulfilled by the District Reading Specialist is primarily a function of district size and philosophy

WISCONSIN STATUTE 118.015. . . EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL EMPLOY A READING SPECIALIST CERTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO DEVELOP AND COORDINATE A COMPREHENSIVE READING CURRICULUM IN GRADES KINDERGARTEN -12.

The International Reading Association Position Statement
"Teaching All Children to Read: The Roles of the Reading Specialist" can be found at
http://www.reading.org/resources/issues/positions_specialist.html

