



Last updated 9/4/2024

1. Who is the intended audience for this professional learning series?

- a. This PL series has been designed for Elementary (K-5) Literacy coaches.
- b. A literacy coach provides collegial, job-embedded support to ensure literacy instruction is aligned to science and best practices, data-informed and student-centered. Literacy coaches collaboratively engage leaders and teachers in practices such as co-teaching, co-planning, modeling, reflective conversations, and data chats to build capacity and to improve student achievement for all.

2. Are the Literacy Coach sessions also for elementary reading specialists?

- a. Yes, if the reading specialist's core role and complimentary schedule is focused on supporting teachers with implementing high-quality literacy instruction. The intended audience for this professional learning series are coaches/reading specialists/reading resource teachers whose primary role is to coach, support, and develop teachers and leaders in all things literacy AND have a comparable schedule that allows them to consistently engage in that work.

3. Will there be coaching professional learning experiences for secondary coaches and specialists?

- a. We are hoping to be able to offer that soon. For now, due to capacity, we are just starting with elementary. But stay tuned!

4. What are the dates and times of the virtual sessions?

- a. Cohort 1
 - September 9, 11, 16, 18 from 9:30 am – 10:45am
[Register here](#)
- b. Cohort 2
 - September 10, 12, 17, 19 from 1:00 pm – 2:15pm
[Register here](#)

5. Is there a limit to the number of participants for the virtual sessions?

- a. All elementary literacy coaches are encouraged to register for the professional learning series. The virtual sessions have two cohorts for registrants to choose from based on what works best for their schedule.

6. I am unable to make all the dates for my virtual cohort. Can I attend the other cohort to make up for the missed session?

- a. Participants should plan to attend their selected cohort dates. All sessions will be recorded so participants can watch the video of any missed sessions.

7. What are the dates, times, and locations of the in-person sessions?

- a. Baltimore City Public Schools Professional Development Center
 - Monday, September 23, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
[Register here](#)
 - Tuesday, September 24, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
[Register here](#)
 - Wednesday, September 25, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
[Register here](#)
 - Thursday, September 26, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
[Register here](#)
- b. Maryland State Department of Education
 - Wednesday, September 25, 9:00am – 4:00pm
[Register here](#)
 - Thursday, September 26, 9:00am – 4:00pm
[Register here](#)

8. Is there a limit to the number of participants for the in-person sessions?

- a. Yes. Due to spacing constraints, the in-person sessions will be for K-5 literacy coaches only. Additionally, each session will have a registration limit.

9. Can supervisors or district staff join this series?

- a. LEA supervisors and district staff are encouraged to join the virtual sessions to learn more about the MSDE Literacy Coaching Model and aligned tools, however, the one-day in-person session will be limited to coaches only due to space constraints.

10. How do coaches register for this series?

- a. Coaches can register for the virtual series and the in-person symposium by visiting the [MSDE Literacy Coaching site](#) by using the links listed above.

11. Is this a required training for elementary literacy coaches?

- a. This training is not required but attendance is highly encouraged.

12. Will travel be reimbursed for the in-person sessions?

- a. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer mileage reimbursement at the state level for travel to the in-person sessions. LEAs may choose to offer reimbursement to their coaches who attend.

13. If I used all my SUNY course slots for my Reading Specialists, should I remove them and sign them up for the coaching model instead? They are also LETRS trained.

- a. In this situation, we recommend sending Reading Specialists positioned as coaches (see answer to question Q 1 and 3) to the coaching model professional learning series. The SUNY Foundations of the Science of Reading for Maryland Educators course is an introduction to SoR.

14. If my coaches have received training aligned to the science of reading, should they attend this?

- a. Yes. While the professional learning series will include developing a common understanding of SoR and aligned practices, the focus is not specifically on SoR. The professional learning series will support coaches with establishing or refining their structure for coaching and applying the aligned resources and tools in their work. Additionally, the space will allow coaches to learn from one another as they collaborate with other elementary coaches from across the state.

15. We do not have literacy coaches anymore now that Md. Leads has ended. Could Title I Interventionists attend?

- a. The intended audience of this professional learning series are elementary literacy coaches whose core role is to provide on-going, job-embedded professional learning and support to teachers in all things' literacy AND have a comparable schedule that allows them to consistently engage in the work.

16. We already have our literacy coaches participating in training offered through our district. It does not seem feasible for our coaches to attend both sets of training. Will the information still be shared if our coaches do not participate?

- a. Our goals with the coaching model professional learning series are to:
 - provide a structure for coaches and LEAs in need of additional guidance
 - provide a bank of vetted resources and tools to help coaches refine and excel at the work they are already doing create a shared space for cross state literacy coach collaboration, and
 - Provide ongoing support in alignment with our literacy policy, key initiatives, and the Blueprint.
- b. In cases where districts have their own structure or training, we still encourage attendance to our sessions because:
 - they are free!
 - offered during school hours,
 - includes CPD credit offering,
 - allows for cross state networking and collaboration
 - shares/dive into the tools MSDE is providing
- c. If districts choose not to participate, coaches will still get access to the Maryland Literacy Coaching Model hub, where resources and tools would be accessible for use.