

# Literacy Coaches

The role of the literacy coach can be described as a collaborative consultant to support K-12 teachers.

Literacy coaches provide teachers with essential understandings and specific literacy resources that support student learning.

## LITERACY COACHES ARE...

- Teachers with specialized knowledge, skills, and experiences related to literacy instruction
- Communicators and modelers of research-based best practice strategies related to literacy instruction
- Supporters of teachers as reflective practitioners
- Facilitators who provide opportunities for professional conversations and growth
- Providers of staff development related to district literacy priorities
- Supporters of assessment informed implementation of the ELA core curriculum
- Translators and interpreters of literacy assessments to guide the design of instruction

## Sample Activities of literacy coaches in the

### CH-UH School District

#### School-Level Activities

- 1) Modeling best practice literacy lessons: e.g. literature circles, D.S.A. driven instruction, writing conferences, small group guided reading sessions, strategy instruction, etc.
- 2) Facilitating and participating in teacher workshops, study groups, and grade level/department meetings
- 3) Providing staff development related to the translation and interpretation of literacy assessments to assist in the design of targeted instruction
- 4) Assisting teachers with the identification and implementation of student interventions
- 5) Observing (non-evaluative) in classrooms to guide next steps in planning support for teachers: in-services, acquisition of resources, design of learning centers, etc.

## **District-Level Activities**

- 1) Collaborating in the design of district goal setting within a balanced literacy framework
- 2) Supporting the development of curricular resources related to literacy
- 3) Developing and distributing bibliographies related to literacy: books, videos, websites
- 4) Teaching/supporting SIRI instruction
- 5) Collaborating with instructional coaches and reading specialists district-wide
- 6) Augmenting the core program to align with data demonstrated needs related to the ELA standards
- 7) Facilitating teacher sessions reflecting on student work.
- 8) Serving as committee members on literacy related task forces (i.e. ELA core adoption, adolescent literacy, balanced literacy, and summer reading)
- 9) Assisting with family literacy activities such as building level literacy nights, kindergarten orientation, and the annual fall Title I meeting
- 10) Attending and supporting community literacy outreach efforts such as the summer reading book fair, poetry gala, and author visits
- 11) Producing *Lit Bits*, the district literacy newsletter
- 12) Providing summer literacy offerings such as Champ Camp and Writers' Workshop

## **Out-of-District Activities**

- 1) Participating in professional development to increase literacy understandings
- 2) Participating in meetings with literacy specialists from other districts (i.e. MSAN, The Literacy Network, and The Regional Literacy Team)
- 3) Participating in Ohio's Literacy Specialist Project
- 4) Serving on state literacy committees such as the Ohio Department of Education range finding committee and writing assessment committee
- 5) Presenting at state and national conferences on topics related to literacy (i.e. Lexile Conference, READ 180, OCTELA, MSAN, and NBPTS)