Menu of Professional Learning Services

Training Sessions

The Early Learning Technical Assistance Center (P-5) at Marshall University's June Harless Center provides a variety of trainings and workshops that can be customized and facilitated for a county or school. Our team of Early & Elementary Learning Specialists provide one-day training sessions that can be structured in a multi-session module approach in order to build capacity through professional learning. The first session consists of an overview of the topic and a broad view of its major concepts. Once the first session is completed, educators or county administrators will determine which of those major concepts that they would like emphasized in the second session. The second session will consist of a more hands-on approach on how to seamlessly work the skill or practice into the classroom with the current curriculum and materials that are in place. After the second session, teachers will go back to the classroom to begin implementation and data collection. The final session will consist of reflecting on the process, looking at the data, and planning next steps to improve instruction.

For efficiency and collaborative value, we encourage counties to reach out to one another to determine if they have similar needs and, if applicable, create cohorts to request any of our training sessions or modules.

If existing resources are not appropriate for a specific need, counties should contact their Early & Elementary Learning Specialist to discuss the development of additional topics and/or training formats.

Multi-session Module Approach

First Session	Second Session	Third Session
Participants will receive an overview of the topic and a broad view of its major concepts.	Participants will engage in a hands-on approach to implementing the skill or practice into the classroom with the current curriculum and materials that are used by the school/county.	Participants will engage in reflection of the implementation and will use data to plan next steps to change instruction.

Professional Learning Topics

The Science of Reading

Early and Elementary Instructional & Administrative Support

The Science of Reading Overview

The science of reading refers to the body of scientific evidence that demonstrates how the brain becomes proficient with language and definitively proves which instructional practices are the most effective for developing strong readers and writers. In this session, participants will gain a better understanding of the science of reading as it pertains to phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing.

Phonological Awareness

Research shows that phonological awareness is the number one predictor of future reading success. Phonological awareness is also the foundation on which all other reading components are built. What is phonological awareness? It is an awareness that spoken language can be broken into words, syllables, and sounds, which can be identified, categorized, and manipulated. During this session, participants will explore the importance that phonological awareness plays in a child's ability to become a successful reader, as well as the skills that a child must master to have a solid phonological awareness foundation.

Phonics

Phonics is the relationship between written letters and the sounds of spoken language. Children's reading development is dependent on their understanding and knowledge of this sound/symbol connection. Phonics is vital because it provides children with skills to figure out how to read words that they have never seen before. Also, knowing certain phonetic rules helps children to identify and generalize words they know and apply this knowledge to read new words. In this session, participants will explore and discuss the importance of phonics, as well as why it is critical to use an explicit-systematic approach to phonics instruction.

Word Study

This presentation is designed to focus on students' current level of understanding and interaction with words and their sound/spelling patterns, rather than rote memorization of random spelling words. Activities and discussions will be utilized to help participants explore both the overview and implementation of word study, including how to use assessment to learn students' developmental stage of word knowledge, the orthographic features they need to study, and how to monitor their progress through each stage.

Fluency

Fluency is a critical part of effective reading instruction. It is the bridge between word recognition and comprehension. This module is an overview of what fluency is, the components that determine truly fluent readers, and information on how to assess reading fluency.

Comprehension

The ultimate goal of literacy is to derive meaning from text, also known as reading comprehension. Strong reading comprehension helps students in all other content areas and helps to ensure their college- and career-readiness. This presentation explores the complex nature of reading comprehension, the ways in which it differs from foundational reading skills, and how to use that knowledge to improve instruction and assessment.

Building Knowledge and Vocabulary

Research shows that knowledge plays a larger role in comprehension than general reading ability, and that knowledge, of both words and the world, supports the learning and retention of new knowledge. While we've previously been taught to activate background knowledge for students, this only benefits the students who have it and increases the achievement gap for struggling students. This session will demonstrate practical ways that teachers can intentionally build knowledge and vocabulary for all students in order to increase achievement across content areas and ability levels.

Text Sets

Is there a solution to closing the reading gap? This presentation demonstrates how to rapidly improve comprehension by reading multiple texts about a topic. Participants will learn that building knowledge and vocabulary simultaneously with high-interest text sets can close the achievement gap at four times the rate of traditional instruction.

Vocabulary

Participants will learn and understand the scientific research on vocabulary instruction. Additionally, the presentation and activities will provide guidance on how to select appropriate vocabulary words to teach and strategies to teach them more effectively. Participants will learn the difference between explicit and implicit instruction as well as a variety of ways to help students learn and retain new words quickly enough to close the language gap.

Building Oral Language

Oral language lays the foundation for the reading and writing skills that students develop as they enter and progress through school. Students use oral language in all aspects of their education, in the classroom as they connect with peers and teachers, and throughout their lives. This session introduces participants to language foundations, building knowledge and vocabulary through read aloud, different types of language modeling, and collaborative conversations in the classroom.

Early and Elementary Instructional & Administrative Support

Writing Overview

This session discusses how regular writing instruction and practice is vital to improving reading outcomes for students as well as the skills, strategies, and structures that students need to be successful. Participants will learn a 6-stage framework for teaching students how to master any strategy or structure. Additionally, they will have the opportunity to participate in a model lesson that incorporates the 6 stages and will learn about 8 instructional routines that help students move through the stages more quickly. The session will conclude with an activity that will help participants recognize what proficient writing looks like for each grade level.

Writing Foundational Skills

Writing is a developmental process that involves multiple stages. Participants will learn about the importance of teaching writing foundational skills as well as research-based instructional practices for guiding children to proficiency. Each developmental stage will be explored by looking at student work samples, identifying the stage that each sample represents, and planning appropriate instructional activities to meet all students' needs.

Writing Organization Structures

In this session, participants will learn more about 8 instructional routines that help students master the writing process more quickly as well as a variety of scaffolds and structures that can be used to support them on their writing journey. Strategies will be explored for teaching students the structure of effective sentences, paragraphs, and different writing types, as well as for synthesizing and organizing information in preparation for writing. A variety of self-regulation strategies, and other memory aids will also be offered.

Writing Content

Participants in this session will explore ways to intentionally build the knowledge that their students need in order to write effectively about grade-level content. They will learn how to integrate ELA, social studies, and science instruction to help students synthesize and communicate their understanding of a variety of topics and texts. Additionally, they will learn how to design writing assignments with effective prompts, appropriate scaffolds, and a gradual release of responsibility process that will ensure success for all students.

Integrating Social Studies and Science with ELA

Lessons that are intentionally planned to be interdisciplinary can significantly deepen student understanding. However, time is often a barrier to creating rigorous, standards-aligned lessons that span multiple content areas. This session will address how educators of elementary students can efficiently integrate English language arts, science and/or social studies state standards in order to increase student interest, build knowledge, and master grade-level content standards.

Early Numeracy

Participants will discover how to integrate math and literacy into the classroom using math concepts during conversations and interactions. Participants will be guided through how to set up interactions to include small group or large group environments where students are engaged in hands-on activities using manipulatives. Concepts will include counting and cardinality, operations and algebraic thinking, numbers and operations in base ten, measurement and data, and geometry.

Integrating Reading Strategies in the Math Classroom

How can you integrate reading strategies into the math classroom? This session will explore reading strategies that can be incorporated into daily math instruction. Participants will identify characteristics of good readers and mathematicians while examining tools and strategies to meet the diverse needs of their classroom. Educators will evaluate how these reading strategies will build learner confidence in their classrooms to increase mathematical reasoning and discourse.

Mathematical Fluency

Mathematical fluency is often thought of as the ability to recall simple math facts accurately and quickly. This is a big misconception. In this session, participants will explore the different components of mathematical fluency to discover why it is so critical to building confident mathematicians. Participants will leave this session with activities, routines, and tasks that can be incorporated into their current curriculum to build confident, and fluent mathematicians.

Exploring Number Sense with Small Group Instruction

Starting children off with engaging math experiences is crucial to learning and developing number sense. Participants will explore number sense activities using a variety of materials to create small group work for math instruction. Participants will discuss how children can use the materials to represent numbers, create addition and subtraction equations, math journals, and use word problems.

Integrating Loose Parts into the Math Classroom

In an early childhood classroom, children learn through hands-on experiences and purposeful play. Providing children with open-ended materials inspires them to be leaders of their own learning, as well as develop an understanding about how things work and how things are connected to each other. During mathematics, children can use manipulatives like seashells, acorns, stones, and buttons when counting or creating patterns. This allows children to interact with real objects that are sustainable for multiple uses. In this session, participants will understand how loose parts can be integrated into daily math routines to further develop number sense in children.

Differentiated Instruction

Equality in the classroom is not about every student getting the same, but about providing each student with the scaffolds and support they need to access the same level of learning as their peers. Differentiated instruction is the vehicle that teachers use to ensure that their students are getting those supports and scaffolds needed to achieve this level of learning.

Small Group Instruction

Small group instruction allows teachers to work more closely with each student. This type of instruction provides teachers with opportunities to assess students' strengths, identify learning gaps, and plan instruction that is more personalized to address specific learning targets. This session will focus on the prerequisites that must be present in a classroom to ensure that small group instruction will be effective, such as successfully assessing and grouping students, selecting different grouping styles based on the students' needs, interests, and learning styles, and successfully implementing small group activities into the classroom.

Developmentally Appropriate Kindergarten Practices

Kindergarten is more than a springboard for success in upper grades. It is the foundation for academic learning and must address the developmental needs of our youngest learners. This session offers an overview of developmentally appropriate instruction for the kindergarten classroom. The main areas of focus include: how to set up an appropriate environment; the elements of the science of reading; small group instruction and formative assessment; building knowledge and vocabulary; building oral language; and self-regulation.

Instructional Coaching

This presentation is all about how to become a more effective instructional coach. Participants will be guided through a coaching cycle as well as learn how to build successful teaching relationships and have better professional conversations.

Overview of the West Virginia Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

The West Virginia Campaign for Grade-Level Reading takes a holistic approach to closing the reading achievement gap by the third grade. Participants of this session will learn the mission and the four components of the Campaign. This presentation is beneficial for external community partners, new county literacy team members and other education stakeholders. Emphasis can be put on one of several topics, including attendance/chronic absence, school readiness initiatives, extended learning programs, high-quality instruction, and family engagement practices.

Additional resources are available to accompany many of the training topics listed above. Please visit *www.wvde.us/leadersofliteracy/* or contact your Early & Elementary Learning Specialist for access to professional learning community guides, e-learning courses, podcast episodes and recorded webinars.