



2022-2023 Three-Credit Hour Course: Building Reading Fluency

- ▶ **Audience:** Active West Virginia Pre-K – Grade 5 teachers
- ▶ **Type:** Self-Paced with Rolling Enrollment
- ▶ **Enrollment:** September 1, 2022 - April 14, 2023
- ▶ **Duration:** September 1, 2022 - May 19, 2023

Description: Building reading fluency is crucial to successful reading comprehension. Through this course, participants will understand the importance of teaching fluency from kindergarten through fifth grade. The course will explore reading fluency in the context of the balanced reading diet and will provide a variety of strategies to practice fluency in whole group, small group, and independent learning settings. Participants will conduct a case study to examine their teaching practices and the impact these practices have on one (1) struggling student. Participants will be required to assess, evaluate, instruct, and reflect on fluency in their classrooms.

Course Goals:

- ▶ Understand the components of the balanced reading diet.
- ▶ Understand how fluency fits into the balanced reading diet.
- ▶ Reflect on ways to incorporate the appropriate amount of time for fluency instruction into the daily schedule.
- ▶ Understand the components of reading fluency.
- ▶ Make connections between fluency and reading comprehension.
- ▶ Define the components of reading fluency.
- ▶ Understand the importance of assessing fluency.
- ▶ Understand how to assess fluency by focusing on one (1) student.
- ▶ Demonstrate how to give a fluency assessment and evaluate the results.
- ▶ Watch videos demonstrating whole group instruction.
- ▶ Plan for whole group fluency instruction.
- ▶ Implement whole group fluency practices.
- ▶ Watch videos demonstrating small group instruction.
- ▶ Plan for small group and independent instruction.
- ▶ Implement fluency practices with students.
- ▶ Administer a post-assessment on a student's reading fluency.
- ▶ Compare pre-assessment and post-assessment results.
- ▶ Reflect on fluency practices to improve instruction.



Session Overviews

▶ **Session 1 – Balanced Reading Diet**

In this session, participants will receive an overview of the Balanced Reading Diet for three (3) stages of developmental readers: emergent, beginner, and transitional/ instructional. Participants will be asked to identify the diet that best suits their students and reflect on how their daily instruction compares to the suggestions in the Balanced Reading Diet resources. Participants will discuss how fluency instruction fits into the diet that he or she selects.

▶ **Session 2 - What is Reading Fluency?**

Fluency is a crucial part of effective reading instruction. As a result, it is important for participants to know what fluency is and how to build students' fluency skills. Through the readings and tasks, participants will learn that fluency is more than just fast-paced reading. This session will provide a deeper understanding of fluency that participants can use to improve reading instruction in the classroom.

▶ **Session 3 - Assessing Reading Fluency**

Assessing reading fluency is an important part of reading instruction. Fluency assessments are critical to understanding what skills students need as they move toward mastery in reading comprehension. Participants will understand the importance of assessing fluency and how to effectively administer assessments in the classroom. Additionally, participants will assess and evaluate a student's reading fluency.

▶ **Session 4 – Whole Group Fluency Instruction**

Throughout the years, teachers have potentially overused the “round robin” reading strategy to teach reading fluency and comprehension with unsuccessful outcomes. The research and readings in this session provide additional fluency activities that are more supportive and engaging. These activities allow students to improve their fluency skills through a wide variety of opportunities such as readers theater and echo reading. In this session, participants will plan and implement a whole group fluency lesson, while keeping the focus on the needs of the student in the case study. This is a valuable time to support readers and their journey to fluency.

▶ **Session 5 – Small Group/Individual Fluency Instruction**

Small group and independent reading instruction provide students with support and guidance on a more personalized level. Because classrooms have diverse readers, it is crucial to differentiate reading instruction to target each student's individual needs. In a small group or individual setting, it is much easier to understand and build upon students' skills. Throughout this session, participants will explore examples and ideas for small group and independent fluency instruction. These strategies will be used to differentiate and plan instruction that target the needs of all students.

▶ **Session 6 –Wrapping Up Reading Fluency**

The focus of this session is on reviewing and evaluating fluency. The readings explore the connection between fluency and reading comprehension. During this session, participants will complete a second running record (post-assessment). The results from the Session Three running record and the second running record will be compared and analyzed. This culminating session will prepare participants for next steps in reading fluency instruction.



Course Grades

All grades in the course gradebook must be a checkmark for successful course completion. A checkmark indicates that all work has been completed and the work meets the expectations for that assignment. Quiz scores must meet the minimum expectations as stated in the course.

