

# Science of Reading for Leaders

## An online learning course

Deepen your literacy expertise with content-focused professional learning that helps you understand how to support instructional change at your site in alignment with scientific evidence for effective reading instruction. You will learn how to translate learning into practical classroom applications, recognize features of explicit and systematic instructional routines as teachers implement their locally adopted curricular programs, and deliver practical tools and resources to sustain the work beyond the hours of the course.



## The benefits of an asynchronous learning course

This asynchronous course features 45 hours of professional skill practice and application that are divided into 10 modules. Each module consists of self-paced engaging learning segments, videos, readings, job-embedded practicum experiences, opportunities for self-evaluation and formative assessment, and routine prompts for reflective practice. Successful completion of this course will be measured by an assessment of your knowledge of how to foster and support ambitious and equitable instructional practices that help all kids read and write well.

## Advance your professional skills

In this course, you will gain an understanding of how to lead your system's implementation of evidence-based practices in the following areas:

### Course Overview

#### The Science of Reading for Leaders

Prime yourself for your learning. Ground your understanding of why this work matters by examining national reading outcomes and the urgent need for instructional change. Gain an overview of the course requirements, how to enable your online learning experience for your learning needs, and how to navigate the course content.

### Module 1

#### Introduction: What Is the Science of Reading?

Learn how to clearly explain the science of reading and its relevance to your site's instructional goals, preparing you to communicate its value to your team and community. Explore common misconceptions about literacy and gain a foundational understanding of what evidence-based practice for teaching reading looks like. Use the Simple View of Reading to understand sources of reading difficulty and drive better-informed instructional leadership across grades K–3.

### Module 2

#### Understanding How Students Learn to Read

Deepen your understanding of how reading develops by exploring the cognitive and linguistic foundations that support skilled reading. Build instructional insights by understanding how phonological processing, word recognition, spelling, and vocabulary are reciprocally related skills that accelerate learning when taught in alignment. Learn how to foster a shared literacy vision grounded in the science of reading that brings coherence and purpose to your team's approach to literacy.

## **Module 3**

### **Early Word Recognition**

Identify key instructional practices that support the development of foundational word recognition skills. Use learning walks to understand the current state of instruction at your site and strategize how to strengthen early word recognition in your classrooms. Develop a clear, actionable plan to align early word reading instruction with a structured literacy approach, grounded in an understanding of how word reading develops.

## **Module 4**

### **Advanced Word Recognition and Building Fluent Readers**

Learn how to support advanced word recognition by helping students use their knowledge from early word recognition instruction to flexibly decode multisyllabic words and introduce morphology instruction to support decoding of complex words. Strengthen your students' reading fluency through a systematic approach to supporting fluency development. Use learning walks and planning tools to evaluate current practices and create an actionable plan for sustained improvements in advanced word recognition and fluency instruction.

## **Module 5**

### **Growing Vocabulary**

Discover how strategic vocabulary instruction enhances both word recognition and comprehension, and learn why Tier 2 words are especially impactful for reading success. Use learning walks to pinpoint opportunities to improve how your teachers select words as well as teach, reinforce, and deepen students' knowledge of word meanings. Create an action plan that builds your staff's capacity to teach vocabulary in ways that are explicit, culturally responsive, and impactful.

## **Module 6**

### **Cultivating Comprehension and Knowledge**

Delve into the multidimensional nature of reading comprehension and find out what good readers do to understand texts. Use learning walks to identify what structured comprehension instruction looks like, whether it is focused on building both background knowledge and skills for meaning-making or limited to isolated strategy practice. Develop a plan to strengthen comprehension instruction that integrates with content area instruction and focuses on background knowledge, text structures, and purposeful strategy integration.

## **Course Closure**

Conclude your learning with deep reflection and a plan for continuous learning.

## **Module 7**

### **Supporting Diverse Learners**

Explore how to integrate a structured literacy approach within MTSS to meet the needs of multilingual learners as well as students with literacy challenges. Learn how to help teachers distinguish between language differences exhibited by multilingual learners and difficulties with reading and writing. Support inclusive literacy planning at Tier 1 through a Universal Design for Learning by guiding educators to integrate culturally responsive strategies and differentiate instruction for all learners.

## **Module 8**

### **Identifying Aligned Literacy Interventions**

Develop a balanced, strategic literacy assessment plan that aligns assessment types with instructional goals and supports data-informed decisions. Lead the integration of formative assessment cycles within your literacy plan to promote continuous instructional improvement. Create a clear plan to help your staff use data from screeners, diagnostics, progress monitoring, and summative assessments to inform strong literacy blocks.



## Make your learning actionable and meaningful

### Conduct learning walks

In this course, you'll receive structured guidance and tools to support learning walks—brief, formative observations designed to surface patterns in literacy instruction across classrooms. You'll gather real-time evidence aligned to key instructional “look-fors,” including those tied to word recognition, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Then, you'll analyze your learning walk data to identify trends and determine high-priority focus areas for your site.

### Chart your next steps

Make your learning immediately actionable with the help of the provided Action Planning Template. This resource will give you anchoring points for where to start, support translating your insights from your learning walks into targeted and actionable next steps to improve instructional quality and student outcomes, and help you keep track of key takeaways—like instructional best practices and practices to address—that you can use going forward in your role as an instructional leader.

