



# ***Leading a Literacy-Focused School: A Course for Middle and High School Principals***

## **Course Overview**

### **Course Description**

Leading a Literacy-Focused School: A Course for Middle and High School Principals is an interactive, online professional development course designed for middle and high school principals, assistant principals and other school literacy leaders. The six course sessions offer school leaders a practical, research-based approach to getting an entire secondary school focused on raising reading levels and reading achievement. Leaders will gain the knowledge and skills and have access to hundreds of proven tools and resources that will help them create and lead literacy-focused schools. Principals can apply to receive 2 semester hours of graduate credit for their coursework through one of Scholastic RED's university partners.

Leading a Literacy-Focused School is one of three courses in Scholastic RED's school-wide professional development program for raising adolescent reading achievement: Foundations of Adolescent Literacy: A Professional Development Program for the Whole School. The program includes a course for all secondary teachers and a course for secondary literacy coaches.

- **Session 1** provides school leaders the background on adolescent literacy they need to be effective literacy leaders. This session examines the literacy demands on today's adolescents and the rising literacy requirements of all workplaces, profiles striving readers and explains how to support them throughout their instructional day, defines the elements of a literacy-focused middle or high school and describes the role of the literacy leadership team.
- **Session 2** provides principals a framework and plan for creating an effective, empowered literacy leadership team. This session helps school leaders become adept at using multiple student data sources to plan, manage and differentiate instruction. The session gives in-depth direction for implementing a whole-school reading assessment and the powerful uses of the resulting student data to improve instruction and raise achievement.
- **Session 3** focuses on choosing and implementing across all grade levels and curriculum areas a common set of literacy strategies. This session also leads principals through effective approaches to providing intensive intervention to striving readers and how to integrate technology into an intervention program.
- **Session 4** focuses on the role of principals in designing and implementing school-wide professional development, establishing a culture of literacy, and monitoring progress toward highly effective, strategic teaching. The session also covers effective techniques for ongoing monitoring of progress in meeting school literacy goals.
- **Sessions 5** helps leaders design and write a school-wide literacy plan. The session provides proven approaches to engaging all stakeholders, making the plan public and keeping everyone accountable for progress and success.



- **Session 6** explains how the principal and the school literacy leadership team collaborate with the entire school community to raise reading levels and achievement, with a particular focus on implementing a school-wide, data-driven improvement model.

All online sessions include resources for working with teachers and literacy coaches to integrate literacy instruction into every curriculum area.



## **Course Faculty**

Dr. Mel Riddile, T. C. Williams High School, 2006 Met Life/NASSP Principal of the Year

Dr. Melvina Phillips, NASSP Consultant for Literacy and Professional Development

## **Course Objectives**

On completing this course, you will be able to:

- Understand the needs of striving readers and your role in working with your colleagues to meet these needs.
- Use literacy assessments, student data and teacher input to lead a school-wide literacy improvement initiative.
- Design and implement school-wide professional development that changes practices in every classroom.
- Understand effective literacy strategies and build school capacity to improve student achievement in literacy and in content-area classes.
- Monitor literacy coaches and teachers effectively, using literacy walks, teacher study groups, classroom observations and conferences with teachers.
- Provide effective, intensive intervention for striving readers.
- Create a strategic action plan to promote a culture of literacy in your school.
- Work collaboratively with literacy coaches, teachers, media specialists, other administrators and parents to raise reading levels and achievement for all students in your school.

### **1. Understanding Today's Adolescent Readers**

- 1.1 Preparing Striving Adolescent Readers for Success
- 1.2 Today's Striving Adolescent Readers
- 1.3 Defining the Elements of a Literacy-Focused School
- 1.4 Developing a Literacy Leadership Team
- 1.5 Using School-Wide Assessment Data
- 1.6 Supporting Striving Readers Throughout the Instructional Day Self-Assessment

### **2. Building a Literacy Leadership Team**

- 2.1 Assessing Every Student in Reading
- 2.2 Assessing Striving Readers
- 2.3 Supporting Teachers to Use Data to Improve Instruction

### **3. Supporting Strategy Instruction and Intensive Intervention**

- 3.1 Implementing Common Reading Strategies in Every Classroom
- 3.2 The Traits of Highly Effective, Strategic Teaching
- 3.3 Providing Intensive Intervention for Striving Readers
- 3.4 Integrating Technology to Support Literacy Improvement



- 4. Improving Teaching With Ongoing Professional Development**
  - 4.1 Designing and Implementing School-Wide Professional Development
  - 4.2 The Coach's Role in Professional Development
  - 4.3 The Principal's Role in Supporting Teachers
  - 4.4 Ongoing Progress Monitoring of Instructional Strategies
  
- 5. Creating an Action Plan to Promote a Culture of Literacy**
  - 5.1 Designing a School-Wide Literacy Action Plan
  - 5.2 Specifying Action Steps for All Stakeholders
  - 5.3 Writing Your Plan
  - 5.4 Establishing Benchmarks for Achieving Goals
  
- 6. Collaborating With Your Literacy Team to Raise Reading Achievement**
  - 6.1 Leading School-Wide Literacy Improvement
  - 6.2 Assessing School-Wide Literacy Improvement
  - 6.3 Ongoing Professional Development
  - 6.4 Ensuring Effective Teaching
  - 6.5 Meeting the Needs of All Students