



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Read to Succeed Liaisons
School Administrators

FROM: Dr. Abbey Duggins
Director, Office of Early Learning and Literacy

DATE: August 15, 2023

RE: 2023–24 Reading Coach Training Opportunities (Year One, Year Two, and Beyond)

The Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) supports South Carolina's districts and schools by providing Read to Succeed (R2S) Reading Coaches with two years of professional learning. In order to receive the R2S Literacy Coach Endorsement, coaches must complete two courses: *Principles of Coaching* and *Action Research*. During their first year, coaches must take and complete the *Principles of Coaching* course. Coaches who are entering their second year must take and complete the *Action Research* course. This two-year training will provide coaches with the R2S Literacy Coach Endorsement and certificates of completion.

Below, you will find syllabi and course information for:

- Year One (Required): Principles of Coaching ([register here](#))
- Year Two (Required): Action Research ([register here](#))
- Year Three and Beyond (Optional): Coaching Conversations Community ([register here](#))

Registration for these trainings closes on September 4, 2023.

Required: Year One and Year Two Trainings

The syllabi for each required course are listed below. These courses are only for first- and second-year reading coaches.

During the 2023–24 school year, the OELL will offer regional training using a virtual model for Year One and Year Two coaches. It requires the virtual presence of both facilitator and coach, with some elements of coach control over time, place, path, or pace. There will be monthly

sessions along with opportunities for virtual one-on-one or small group support. The online component will expose participants to the work of coaching scholar-practitioner.

Year One: Principles of Coaching

The Year One Principles of Coaching course has been designed to increase reading coaches' expertise and ability by exploring and using guiding principles for elementary reading coaches as outlined by the *Literacy Competencies for South Carolina Reading Coaches*. In this course, participants will explore what it means to be an effective reading coach as they partner with teachers for instructional improvement and increased student achievement. Using a virtual learning format, the research and theories addressed in this course will focus on the intersection of the following fields: adult learning theory, organizational change, literacy leadership, coaching models, coaching practices, creating and implementing professional development, school improvement, Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), and the relationship between teacher quality and student achievement.

Syllabus for Year One Coach Training: [Year One Principles of Coaching](#)

Year Two: Action Research

The Year Two Action Research course has been designed to engage in explorations of action research in theory and practice in relation to coaching. Participants will make connections between their theoretical understandings of research and their own emergence as practitioner researchers in educational settings who view themselves as producers of knowledge. They will learn about their coaching and their teachers' learning by studying their own experiences. They will have opportunities to identify problems in their coaching practice, make a plan, gather and analyze data as they carry it out, report results, and develop implications for their future coaching practice and action research.

Syllabus for Year Two Coach Training: [Year Two Action Research](#)

Regional Session Information

In an effort to ensure that all first- and second-year reading coaches receive support from the SCDE Literacy Specialist team, as mentioned, virtual regional meetings will be offered across the state. These regional sessions will be facilitated by a team of Literacy Specialists. Reading coaches are asked to register to attend a session within your region of the state. The chart below lists the regional offerings for Year One coaches and regional offerings for Year Two coaches. Participants will reserve scheduled dates for their regional sessions and log in to the sessions at least 30 minutes before they begin. **Registration will close on September 4, 2023.**

R2S Reading Coaches will be trained in their choice of the following regions:

Year One Coach Training Dates: Principles of Coaching ([register here](#))

Year 1 Region	Dates	Facilitators
Upstate	September 6, 2023 October 4, 2023 November 1, 2023 December 11-12, 2023 January 17, 2024 February 7, 2024 March 6, 2024 April 15-19, 2024	Sandi Maddox Bettina McNeil Sarah Lynch
Midlands	September 12, 2023 October 10, 2023 November 14, 2023 December 12, 2023 January 9, 2024 February 13, 2024 March 12, 2024 April 9, 2024	Jamilah Campbell Renee Driggers Cynthia Haigler Celeste Robertson
Lowcountry	September 18, 2023 October 16, 2023 November 13, 2023 December 11, 2023 January 22, 2024 February 12, 2024 March 11, 2024 April 22, 2024	Rikki Benjamin Talana Palmer Jennifer Shuffler

Year Two Coach Training Dates: Action Research ([register here](#))

Year 2 Region	Dates	Facilitators
Upstate	September 20, 2023 October 11, 2023 November 14, 2023 December 13-14, 2023 January 24, 2024 February 21, 2024 March 20, 2024 April 22-26, 2024	Sandi Maddox Bettina McNeil Sarah Lynch
Midlands	September 14, 2023 October 12, 2023 November 16, 2023	Jamilah Campbell Renee Driggers Celeste Robertson

Year 2 Region	Dates	Facilitators
	December 14, 2023 January 11, 2024 February 15, 2024 March 14, 2024 April 11, 2024	Cynthia Haigler
Lowcountry	September 19, 2023 October 17, 2023 November 14, 2023 December 12, 2023 January 23, 2024 February 13, 2024 March 12, 2024 April 23-24, 2024	Rikki Benjamin Talana Palmer Jennifer Shuffler

These trainings are open to any Year One or Year Two coach statewide, but coaches at schools who are not participating in the Palmetto Literacy Project may instead opt to use [VirtualSC Professional Development's](#) two graduate courses of *Principles of Literacy Research and Action Research*. These trainings are open to all Year One and Year Two coaches pending availability.

Optional: Coaching Conversations Community

Are you a current and endorsed R2S Reading Coach looking for continued opportunities to connect, share, learn and grow with your coaching peers? If so, grab your coffee or tea and join us in quarterly conversations to create connections with coaches in your region, share current coaching work and ideas, support one another, and grow together. Each Coaching Conversations Community is newly designed to promote collaboration and learning around current literacy and coaching topics. These communities are intended for coaches who have already completed both Year One and Year Two trainings.

The OELL currently hosts three coaching communities in the Upstate, Midlands, and Lowcountry regions of South Carolina. The events are held via Zoom from 9am to 12pm on specified dates by region. **If interested, [please register here](#) by September 22, 2022.**

Coaching Conversations Community Regions and Dates

Region	Facilitators	Dates	Time
Upstate	Wendy Todd Kim Camp Bettina McNeil	September 29, 2023 October 27, 2023 January 26, 2024 March 22, 2024	9am - 12pm
Midlands	Cynthia Haigler	September 29, 2023	9am - 12pm

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Region	Facilitators	Dates	Time
	Jamilah Campbell Robyn Heffernan	October 27, 2023 January 26, 2024 March 22, 2024	
Lowcountry	Rikki Benjamin Jennifer Shuffler Talana Palmer	September 29, 2023 October 27, 2023 January 26, 2024 March 22, 2024	9am - 12pm

If you have additional questions please contact Marie Gibbons, Read to Succeed Team Lead, at mgibbons@ed.sc.gov.