



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents  
Read to Succeed Liaisons  
School Administrators

**FROM:** Dr. Alisha Green  
Director, Office of Early Learning and Literacy

**DATE:** August 13, 2024

**RE:** Year One and Year Two Reading Coach Training

The Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) supports South Carolina's districts and schools by providing SCDE Reading Coaches with two years of professional learning. To receive the SCDE 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 SCDE Literacy Coach Endorsement and certificates of completion.

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.

Both courses will be offered monthly to first- and second year reading coaches through a virtual model. **Please register prior to August 30, 2024.** The registration link is found on p. 3 of this memo.

### **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, 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](#)

### **Directions to Register**

In an effort to ensure that all first- and second year reading coaches receive support from the SCDE Literacy Specialist team, as mentioned, reading coaches are asked to register to attend sessions within their region of the state.

The charts found on pp. 3-4 of this memo list the regional offerings for Year One coaches and regional offerings for Year Two coaches. Participants will log in to the sessions at least 30 minutes before they begin. **Please register prior to August 30, 2024.**

Please use this [LINK](#) to register prior to August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Year One Coach Training: <i>Principles of Coaching</i>	
<b>Upstate Dates:</b> September 18, 2024 October 16, 2024 November 13, 2024 December 9-10, (choice), 2024 January 15, 2025 February 19, 2025 March 19, 2025 April 14-18(choice), 2025	<b>Upstate Facilitators:</b> Kathryn Gandy Sandi Maddox Bettina McNeil Sarah Lynch
<b>Midlands Dates:</b> September 16, 2024 October 14, 2024 November 4, 2024 December 9, 2024 January 13, 2025 February 10, 2025 March 17, 2025 April 7, 2025	<b>Midlands Facilitators:</b> Jamilah Campbell Renee Driggers Cynthia Haigler Celeste Robertson
<b>Lowcountry Dates:</b> September 16, 2024 October 14, 2024 November 4, 2024 December 9, 2024 January 13, 2025 February 10, 2025 March 10, 2025 April 7, 2025	<b>Lowcountry Facilitators:</b> Rikki Benjamin Talana Palmer Jennifer Shuffler

Year Two Coach Training: <i>Action Research</i>	
<b>Year Two Upstate Dates:</b> September 23, 2024 October 23, 2024 November 20, 2024 December 11-12, 2024 January 29, 2025 February 26, 2025 March 26, 2025 April 21-25 (choice), 2025	<b>Facilitators:</b> Kathryn Gandy Sandi Maddox Bettina McNeil Sarah Lynch
<b>Midlands Dates:</b> September 23, 2024 October 21, 2024 November 18, 2024 December 16, 2024 January 21, 2025 February 24, 2025 March 24, 2025 April 8 & 9, 2025	<b>Facilitators:</b> Jamilah Campbell Renee Driggers Celeste Robertson Cynthia Haigler
<b>Lowcountry Dates:</b> September 23, 2024 October 21, 2024 November 18, 2024 December 16, 2024 January 21, 2025 February 24, 2025 March 17, 2025 April 8 & 9, 2025	<b>Facilitators:</b> Rikki Benjamin Talana Palmer Jennifer Shuffler

If you have additional questions please contact Marie Gibbons, Read to Succeed Team Lead, at [mgibbons@ed.sc.gov](mailto:mgibbons@ed.sc.gov).