K-12 Professional Development and Literacy

Department of Education

Overview

Many states have seen improvements in reading scores by implementing the Science of Reading, an evidence-based approach to reading instruction. South Dakota initially implemented this proven method with ESSER funding and Governor Noem's recommended budget includes $6,000,000 in one-time funding to provide continued support to South Dakota schools for this evidence-based literacy framework that helps all students become college, career, and life ready.

Project Description

This initiative includes investments in AIM Pathways courses, Foundational Reading courses, and Instructional Coaching.

- AIM Pathways courses are designed for educators and educational administrators interested in incorporating a culture of literacy in their schools and adding the science of reading to their classroom practice. Online coursework will be provided so the content is accessible to all educators.

- Foundational Reading courses include both research-based classroom practices and sample lesson models that are ready to be implemented in the classroom. The K-3 course dives into the five main literacy skills: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. The 4-8 course focuses on fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. The Explicit Instruction training provides an in-depth look and practice using the explicit instructional methodologies. All Foundational Reading courses are in person and offered at different sites across the state during the summer.

- The Instructional Coaching program will provide an established process to ensure that instructional coaches have all the tools they need to help teachers set and achieve their goals. Since South Dakota has such a varied range of school sizes, we need to build a sustainable program to support all districts in providing coaches for their teachers. This additional support should increase teacher retention, as well.

Funding

The Governor's recommended budget includes a 4-year special appropriation of $6,000,000 in general funds to cover the cost of these efforts.

GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM