**Improving Adolescent Literacy:   
Creating a Culture of Instructional Excellence**

Partnership Understanding   
The Improving Adolescent Literacy (IAL) Project is a professional development opportunity sponsored by the Midwest Instructional Leadership Council (miLc). The goals of this project are to become familiar with and implement research-based literacy strategies that will increase student achievement for adolescent learners in grades 6-12.

Dr. Kevin Feldman, the lead trainer for this project, is the emeritus director of reading and intervention for the Sonoma County Office of Education and an independent educational consultant working with districts across the country. He has more than 40 years of experience in education with a primary focus on accelerating literacy of struggling readers, English language learners and students with disabilities.

CESA2 Literacy consultants will provide additional coaching support throughout the project.

Who will participate?   
Team membership from each building should consist of some of the following individuals:

* Building administrator (1 required per team)
* General education content area teachers (Grades 6-12)
* Special education teachers
* Reading specialists
* Instructional coaches

Building administrators will invite teacher leaders to join the implementation team based on their expertise, leadership abilities and their willingness to be observed and give/receive feedback.

## What is the expected commitment of the participants?

**Building administrators will:**

* Participate in the administrator training scheduled in Fall 2016 with Dr. Feldman
* Participate in the team training throughout the 2016-2017 school year (required)
* **Assist and support “learning walks” in classrooms of participating teachers**
* **Conduct “learning walks” in classrooms of participating teachers to provide feedback**
* Provide on-going support and accountability for effective implementation of strategies learned in the trainings
* Encourage & support participating teachers to share specific strategies and techniques they are successfully using via established school structures (e.g. departments, PLCs )
* Support teachers in videotaping at least one lesson per semester

**Participating teachers will:**

* Participate in the five days of team training with Dr. Feldman
* **Create and implement lesson plans that incorporate the strategies from the trainings**
* **Partner with one other colleague to serve as the “learning partner” for one another throughout the project**
* **Observe and be observed by a team member(s) using the “learning walk tool” at least one time following each training**
* **Meet to discuss observations with a partner from your team and give feedback after the observations and before the next training**
* Informally share strategies and techniques that are working with additional colleagues via department, staff and/or PLC meetings
* Video-tape teaching so that it can be shared (in meetings, online, etc.) for the purpose of collective learning (one lesson per semester minimum)

**MiLc staff and partners will:**

* Participate in the administrator training Fall 2016 with Dr. Feldman
* Participate in the team training throughout the 2016-2017 school year
* Facilitate initial feedback discussions on school-site
* Provide follow-up coaching, training, and supports specified by each school district
* Coordinate all activities/schedules, trainings, and materials
* Work directly with Dr. Feldman regarding his schedule and expectations
* Ensure that the Districts have the Partnership Understanding signed by the building administrator on or before September 15th and returned to the CESA2 Project Coordinator
* Share resources across schools participating in the project

**Dr. Feldman:**

* Provide 1 day of administrator and leadership team training based on the IES Practice Guide, [Improving Adolescent Literacy: Effective Classroom and Intervention Practices](http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/pdf/practice_guides/adlit_pg_082608.pdf). (Fall 2016)
* Provide 5 days of teacher training based on the above research summary.
* Be available for any/all questions via email ([drkfeldman@gmail.com](mailto:drkfeldman@gmail.com)) throughout the length of the project.
* Assist with editing clips from selected videos to demonstrate key strategies
* Provide concrete demonstrations of all key strategies (modeling and classroom videos from related projects)

## Training Dates: Topic: Location:

* August/September TBD Student Motivation & Engagement TBD
* October TBD Explicit Vocabulary Instruction TBD
* November/December TBD Comprehension & Critical thinking TBD
* January/February 2017 Text Meaning and Interpretation TBD
* March 2017 Extended discussion & explanatory writing TBD

## Cost of Training

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Districts will cover costs of substitutes for team members to attend training.

**Estimated Team Registration Fee (Assuming 50% of costs subsidized by CESA2 and funding partners) = $3000/school team (Max 6 members including 1 building principal)**

Per team cost is estimated to be $6000 for all training sessions, coaching support and related costs (meals, snacks, extra materials etc…) However, CESA2 is seeking external funding partners to help cover costs so that participation can be affordable to districts.

There will be an additional fee of approximately $100 per participant to cover training materials.

## Optional Credit Available:

Additional college credit will be available for an additional per credit fee to be determined.

Application and Statement of Interest in ALP 2016-17  
We have read the parameters and responsibilities as outlined above and would be interested in participating in the project if funded as described. If selected for this project we understand we would need to sign a formal agreement to abide by the parameters outlined in this project description. We understand that our signature here in no way obligates us to participate and that we will have an opportunity to review any project contracts produced before signing any more binding commitment.

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Building Administrator Date  
\**Administrative involvement is critical and therefore required.*

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CESA2 Representative Date