

The Middle School Quality Initiative (MSQI)

MSQI aims to build the capacity of school communities to strengthen their school-wide literacy program by providing structured opportunities for professional learning, literacy leadership development, resource sharing, per pupil funding, and site-based coaching services. MSQI coaches support schools in crafting and enacting yearly literacy action plans, aligned to Comprehensive Educational Plans, over the course of three years.

A school is a match for MSQI if:

- Leaders and teachers have a desire to improve literacy practices and a learning stance required to adopt new practices
- It has structures in place to support school improvements efforts
- It can effectively allocate resources to implement a school-wide literacy plan
- It can provide time and/or funding for an MSQI Literacy Coordinator position
- It can strategically schedule and manage site-based coaching services
- It maintains a middle grades enrollment of 250 students or more

Leaders and teachers have a desire to engage in self-reflection about the impact of their identities in school in order to achieve more equitable literacy practices and solve issues of disproportionality.

Program Goals

The Middle School Quality Initiative seeks to:

- Ensure all children entering 9th grade can read on or above grade level
- Support schools in the implementation of a comprehensive literacy improvement plan (assessment, cross-content area & disciplinary literacy, and intervention/acceleration)
- Strengthen literacy instructional practices through site-based coaching, on-going professional learning opportunities and middle school focused resources
- Continuously reflect on how equity interplays with literacy.

School Commitments

From July 2018 – June 2019, each school leader will:

- Appoint, schedule, and supervise an MSQI literacy coordinator to oversee MSQI program implementation and alignment between coaching, professional learning and resources
- Engage in goal-setting and action planning
- Monitor program implementation over the course of the year
- Participate in related learning activities
- Document and share promising practices
- Utilize the MSQI funding allocation to directly support reading growth
- Provide programmatic feedback to MSQI leadership
- Pursue equity with culturally responsive pedagogy.

Support

Schools will be provided with tailored support from MSQI through:

- A site-based literacy coach (15 days/school)
- Literacy leadership institutes
- Practitioner workshops and school-to-school visits focused on the MSQI Literacy Framework
- Free access to a universal reading comprehension screener (embedded into ATS, MOSL option) and online data processing tools
- Opportunities to participate in supplemental literacy programs
- Funding to support program activities

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