

Rationale for Literacy Coaches

- Our literacy data= 30%-37% of MCCSC students (depending upon the grade level and year) are reading below grade level or 240+ students per grade level district-wide.
- Based on legislation passed last year, we will be required to retain third grade students who do not pass the state reading test beginning at the end of next school year.
- Each school is required to submit a comprehensive literacy plan by June 30, 2011 and implement it beginning in August 2011.
- Literacy Coaches can help facilitate implementation of the reading plans, provide professional development to staff, track and manage data, assist teachers in designing intervention plans, design progress monitoring plans, promote alignment thus maximizing the effects of district initiatives directly tied to student achievement, and a host of other literacy related activities. Classroom teachers do not have time to teach all day and do everything listed above.
- Literacy Coaches in schools is simply best practice to promote literacy gains school-wide
- The Indiana Department of Education requires schools that enter into and stay in school improvement status to hire literacy coaches. We recommend being proactive rather than reactive in our approach
- We have local examples of success through the use of coaches. Our 6 title one schools have had a literacy coach in place since August 2009 using Title One Stimulus dollars and the results speak for themselves: Grandview Elementary was the only school in the district and among about 40 statewide to achieve “high growth” recognition from the Indiana Department of Education for student growth in the area of Language Arts, Highland Park Elementary made adequate yearly progress for the second consecutive year thus removing themselves from “improvement” status, Templeton Elementary and Fairview Elementary saw significant increases in reading achievement, and Summit Elementary and Arlington Heights Elementary have made much progress as a direct result of their literacy coaches this year.
- This position is recommended in response to what building level leaders have requested and told us what they need.