The Idaho Coaching Network

Over the past five years, the State Department of Education has employed teachers from every region to serve as full-time Coaches to build a place for a community of educators to hone their instructional skills leading to better outcomes for students. The Coaches are experienced professional development facilitators in the areas of literacy and the Idaho English Language Art/Literacy Standards, who seek to foster greater collaboration and expertise among teacher-leaders and administrators across each geographic area, building a common language around learning through an instructional shift lens. The program is predicated on honoring teachers as professionals and leaders and the time it takes to effect change in an endeavor as complex as teaching and learning.

Building Human Capital That Remains in Local Districts

- Average # of hours invested by teacher leaders annually: 300
- Worked directly with over 800 Teacher Leaders and 240 Administrators in the Idaho Coaching Network from 2013-2017. Half opt for year 2 and mentor other TLs.
- Supporting Teachers and Administrators as they support Professional Learning in their local schools and districts.
- More than 3/4 of Districts and Charters have chosen to take part, reaching over 85% of Idaho students
- Provided over 125,000 contact hours annually of Sustainable Professional Learning within the daily practice of teachers to propel Idaho’s students toward a command of Literacy

What are educators saying about this program? (See other side)
I love how this class is unfolding. I can feel myself learning and ‘getting it!’ I am doing the work and, as a result, doing the learning. Past experiences haven’t set me up for so much success; the class wasn’t modeling the teaching it was trying to instill. With this class, I have the proper scaffolding, modeling, and guidance and I can feel the learning. Thank you!

Region VI

The Core Teacher Program has been critical in my role as a teacher. Working through this program has made me aware of the Common Core State Standards, how to implement them, and allows me to see the vision of where Idaho is going. This program has been so important that I honestly have said to others in the class, I wish every teacher in Idaho could take this class! Thank you!

Region I

As an educational leader in rural Northern Idaho, I rely on the Coaching Program to support our continued growth and implementation of the standards. The demonstrated development of high student inter-rich tasks that are cross curricular in nature, of high student interaction, “real” in the sense of meaningful learning with and actual product demonstration of learning and leveled to suit the nature of individual learners is a hallmark of the program. I am seeing these works in my classrooms daily. This year, the highest mid-year benchmark testing results in Reading were achieved by my students. The positive gains have trended steadily over the past three years, and one pillar of this positive growth in our students is the Idaho Coaching Network. Principal, Region II

Region VI

The Core Coaching class was made available on a regional basis and regional coaches were hired is an enormous step toward providing an attempt at equity in professional development training opportunities to educators around the state. Additionally, the regional hubs were beneficial to establishing a regional cohort and creating relationships and thinking partners between districts. I believe this was incredibly helpful for the extremely small and rural districts where a single teacher might represent an entire department. Thank you for supporting this program.

Region V

The teachers from American Falls High School who have been involved in the Idaho Core Coach program have been very excited about the information, knowledge and skills they have gained. They are equally excited to share that information and those skills with the rest of our staff.

Region V

It is through the OPN that I have met with, trained, and supported many educators. In finishing my Web of Impact assignment, I found that I had provided PD for over 500 educators and 1,000 hours of professional development. Through this network, I have made connections and advocated for ELLs to over 500 people this past year. I saw a teacher, who just retired in May, come up to me with tears in her eyes about a month before her retirement, show me a struggling student’s work and exclaim, “He got it. He finally go it!” And that was all thanks to the Idaho Coaching Network. Region VI

Region V

Overall, the Core Teacher Program was rigorous and intensive. It took commitment and time. It was inspirational and motivating. It was effective and life-changing, professionally...and worth every minute of it!

Region II

I don’t remember what it was like before I taught using the Idaho Core Standards. I don’t remember what it was like to teach without constant reflection and revision, and I don’t remember what it was like to be “fixed”. My mindset has changed, my attitude has changed, and my instruction has changed, all for the better. It isn’t about me and what I like, want or feel, it is about our future, our students and my children.

Region IV

The training I have received thus far has been in a nutshell, the most effective and important training I have yet to receive in my 2 years of Common Core implementation professional development opportunities. I cannot express the importance of the work we have done, in not only understanding the important "shifts" in this transition, but also the collaboration and wealth of strategies shared at each meeting. Each opportunity has provided important tools for me to take back to my own instructional practice, building, and district. My only criticism would be that every teacher in the state should be afforded this same opportunity.

Region I