



Professional Learning Sessions

Booktalk Club: Painless and Powerful Reading, Writing, and Performing

When trying to foster a love of booktalking in your school, we suggest promoting booktalk clubs. Learn how to conduct a booktalk club that students will actually choose to join. Tested to increase independent reading in schools, these methods help children read, write, and perform with confidence. And best of all, it's fun!

Creating a School-wide Reading Culture With the Power of the Booktalk

Book choice is extremely important to students as they develop into critical and engaged readers. And booktalks can entice even reluctant readers to try new fiction and nonfiction books. Learn how to incorporate booktalks into your school day, and watch your students' excitement for reading grow when they share booktalks with each other and truly become members of a school-wide reading culture.

Making the Most of Parent Involvement: Raising Readers

When adult family members read at home with their children, they are creating a bond that will last a lifetime. We know that children who are read to for at least twenty minutes a day will dramatically increase their listening, vocabulary, language, and reading abilities. This interactive session models simple, effective ways for families to make the reading experience positive and successful for children. (Grades Pre-K–2)

Take the Journey: Putting Independent Reading Into Practice

Would you like to develop a culture of independent reading where all teachers build students' stamina to read up to 30 minutes daily in school? Across the country, principals are taking staff and students on an independent reading journey in their school communities, using special tools and resources to become Model Independent Reading Schools. Hear from one of these principals during this informative session.

Using Classroom Libraries to Strengthen Independent Reading Muscles

What elements constitute an effective classroom library? Do your classroom libraries give students access to right-fit books? In this session, participants will strengthen their independent-reading muscles by learning about effective classroom libraries, ways to inventory classroom libraries within the school, and hear how principals and teachers have begun to address students' access to a wide, diverse classroom collection.

Let's Face It, Informational Text Has Features

When you look for informational text in a book, it is helpful to know how to identify text features to better understand what you will be reading. As we dive deeper into the state standards and learn how to incorporate more nonfiction into our classrooms, explore how to share informational text features with adult family members and their children in a fun, interactive way. (Grades 3–5)

Investigating Informational Text: Strategic Detective Work

Adult family members and their middle-school students can learn how to be detectives by investigating informational text. We read informational text in order to learn about the natural or social world, provide an account of an historical event, and to give us information we want or need to know. This session shows how educational leaders can share CLUES to finding pertinent information in nonfiction text by scrutinizing primary, secondary, and multiple sources in a way that all family members will enjoy. (Grades 6–8)