



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Early Learning Educators and Administrators

From: Dr. Kelli Servizzi, Director of Kindergarten Readiness

Date: May 1, 2023

Subject: Early Literacy Professional Development Cohort

With the mission of helping more students become proficient readers, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) announced a partnership in 2022 with Indiana schools to deploy literacy coaches to provide guidance, support, and professional development for educators as they implement research-based curriculum. To support literacy instruction, this coaching provides consistent, job-embedded support to teachers in kindergarten through second grade based on the science of reading, a compilation of scientific research on reading, reading development, and reading instruction.

As a key partner in strengthening Indiana's pre-K continuum, IDOE invites you to participate in an early literacy cohort led by renowned authors and researchers Kathy Collins and Matt Glover. Infancy to age five educators are encouraged to participate in professional development on the topic of early literacy as it relates to the developmental stages of the students they are serving.

The cohort includes:

- a two-day summer institute, with a \$75 per day stipend for attendance;
- three books written by Collins and Glover; and
- remote/virtual workshops.

Selected cohort members will also participate in professional development with Collins and Glover in onsite classrooms throughout the school year.

Professional development and communication between preschool, kindergarten, and early elementary teachers contributes to the communal knowledge of instructional content and strategies used at adjacent grade levels to help ensure appropriate kindergarten readiness instruction. Research shows that this alignment between early learning programs and associated elementary schools eases the transition for children and families and helps put students on the best possible path to success in kindergarten.

A commitment for June 2023 to June 2024 is required. This may include onsite professional development and remote/virtual workshops. The summer institute will be held on Monday, June 19, and Tuesday, June 20, at Sunnyside Intermediate in Lafayette for those in northern Indiana and Wednesday, June 21, and Thursday, June 22, at Government Center South in Indianapolis for those in central and southern Indiana. Sessions may be counted toward annual required training hours for licensing and Paths to QUALITY. Professional Growth Plan (PGP) Points will be awarded for the summer institute and onsite classroom work.

Please submit participant information to [Dr. Kelli Servizzi](#), Director of Kindergarten Readiness by Friday, May 5. Information requested includes:



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- Name
- Mailing address
- Telephone number
- Email
- Corporation name
- School name
- Role

Participation in the cohort is limited, and additional information will be provided at a later date. Please contact IDOE's [Office of Kindergarten Readiness](#) with any questions.