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Over the last few years, several states have passed legislation focused on improving early reading proficiency using instructional approaches and curricular materials aligned to the science of reading. However, many teachers in classrooms today were not trained in the science of reading in their teacher preparation programs. As a result, states have been faced with the need to ensure that teachers understand the evidence about how reading should be taught, possess the skills to utilize that knowledge in their classrooms, and then apply that knowledge and skills on a daily basis in their classrooms. To address this need, states have turned to a professional learning model involving intensive professional development on the science of reading followed by support from a reading coach with specific expertise in that science to help teachers apply what they have learned to support improved student achievement in their classrooms. This month in our [blog](#), we take a look at the research on reading coaching and the stories of Alabama and Mississippi to see what we might learn about improving reading instruction and achievement.

We also invite you to read [our story](#) of working with Alabama to develop the Alabama Coaching Framework and where we are in that work now. While the framework originated as a support for Alabama's extensive network of regional and local literacy specialists who provide coaching to school leaders and teachers across the state, it has grown to serve as a framework for coaching in other areas, including school improvement, English learners, and multi-tiered systems of support. As a result, it provides a common language and model for coaching in Alabama.

Below, we also provide some other resources on reading coaching, including an interview with Kristen Wynn (Mississippi State Literacy Director) and the Mississippi Department of Education Literacy Coach Handbook.

As we welcome summer with the end of the school year, I hope you all have time for relaxation and rest as you enjoy summer trips and time with family and friends.

Be sure to visit our website and check in with us on social media to keep up with our work. We are honored to continuously support you during these five years.

Robin G. Jarvis

Robin G. Jarvis, PhD

Director, Region 7 Comprehensive Center



Resources

New R7CC Blog – [Do Reading Coaches Matter for Teacher Instruction and Student Achievement?](#)

Alabama Literacy Network Podcast – [Coaching the Most Important Teams – Interview with Kristen Wells-Wynn](#)

Mississippi Department of Education – [MDE Literacy Coach Handbook](#)

REL Southeast – [Considerations for Planning and Implementing Literacy Coaching](#)

REL Southeast – [Self-Study Guide for Evidence-Based Coaching for Literacy: PreK–Grade 12](#)



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