

Early Reading Matters

SY 2019-2020

Overview:

Early Reading Matters is Teaching Matters' blueprint for deepened teacher professional learning in the high-impact area of early reading. Literacy learning begins in early childhood. And those schools that take early literacy seriously find their students better prepared to learn and excel throughout their academic careers.

Taking advantage of this narrow window of time to develop foundational learning is a critical piece in the formula for overall school success.

Combining substantial philanthropic support from the Brooke Astor Fund for New York City Education and a group of committed donors with matching support from schools, Teaching Matters provides rigorous, targeted, and sustained development of teachers, school leaders, teacher leaders, and students, all with the goal of increasing student reading proficiency.

★ [Year 1 Model and Matching Grant Eligibility](#)

★ [Application](#)

A three-year program, the long-term goals of *Early Reading Matters* are to:

- Increase the percentage of K-2 students attending targeted NYC public schools who have acquired the reading skills necessary for success in later grades
- Increase the number of targeted NYC schools with teachers who provide research-based reading instruction to meet the needs of a wide array of young readers
- Build capacity in each school for continuing this work by supporting school leaders and preparing school-based teacher leaders to guide their teams in continuous improvement.



**Great teachers.
Bright futures.**

What Does the First Year Look Like?

30 days of weekly onsite coaching from an expert coach

Incorporates modeling of key early reading instructional strategies, co-planning shared reading and guided literacy instruction, observation and feedback and guidance in using reading data for decision-making.

***Early Reading Matters* Literacy Institute**

A 4-day, CTLE-eligible institute for all K&1 teachers. Focused on the content and pedagogy needed of Shared and Guided Reading for the Pre-emergent, Emergent and Early Stage readers.

Teacher Leader/Learning Team Leader Training

A 1-day, CTLE-eligible workshop for leaders of teams and APs, targeting how to lead colleagues in productive collaboration focused on literacy teaching and learning with emphasis on continuous improvement in teacher practice.

Data Day

A 1-day interactive workshop for K&1 teachers, teacher leaders and APs. Focused on analyzing the results of your school's benchmark reading assessment. This training will immediately impact immediate implementation of guided instruction.

Share and Show

A 1-day, CTLE-eligible workshop for K&1 teachers, teacher leaders and APs. Allows teachers to learn and share promising school-based ERM practices with peers across the cohort.

School Leader Series

A 1-day launching workshop that provides leaders with an overview of *Early Reading Matters*. Followed by four learning sessions throughout the year focused on knowledge building.

Starter K & 1 Text Set

Student texts for guided literacy covers Pre-Emergent, Emergent and early reading stages (K & 1), ensuring no loss of instructional time.

Print and Online Toolkit

Early Reading Matters resources including the *Reading Behaviors Tool*, *Benchmark Tracker*, *Teacher Competencies*, *What to Look for Observation Checklist* and more for sharing with school team

Eligibility:

Early Reading Matters represents an exceptional opportunity for schools to receive a 1:1 funding match for comprehensive professional learning when they purchase 18 days of onsite support.

Eligible schools:

- Have a poverty level of 85% or higher.
- Demonstrate commitment to improving reading proficiency in the early grades.
- Committed to significant time in their literacy block (90-120 minutes of daily instruction).
- Prioritize coherence in ELA curriculum and assessment.
- Provide dedicated time for weekly grade-level teacher team meetings.
- Recognize the value of evidence-based decision-making and provide benchmark data for grades K-2 three times a year in the ERM project tracker.
- Willing to acquire (if needed) classroom texts that are sufficient for success.

Important Note:

Participation is not appropriate for schools that have exclusive or strong partnerships with other reading projects,

We invite your application for participation in *Early Reading Matters* now for a three-year public/private partnership in which your school and Teaching Matters funders share the cost beginning in September 2019.

Qualifying schools will be accepted into the fifth cohort of this highly successful K-2 literacy initiative.

[Space is limited, so apply online early!](#)

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The cut-off for all submissions is August 28th. Your participation will be confirmed following input from your district superintendent.

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