



RE-1 VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Logan County, Colorado
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Recommendation

My recommendation that Dana Hall, Sterling Literacy Consulting, be added to the approved list of Read Act vendors is based on his successful work with our district in implementing PALS as our READ Act assessment. His work has positively impacted our K-3 literacy achievement and growth, the grades addressed by the READ Act legislation. In the three years of training and modeling instruction with us, our identification of students with significant reading deficiencies in grades K-3 has dropped from 30 percent to between 8 and 10 percent consistently. This includes fall, mid-year, and spring assessments beginning in the fall of 2013.

He commands both the mechanics of the PALS assessment as well as the implementation of data-driven instruction based on the results. His presentation style is engaging and learner-centered. Not only has he done our PALS training for three years, he has modeled assessment strategies and effective reading instruction for our K-3 teachers. Our staff respects his reading research knowledge and especially appreciates the fact that he never makes anyone feel inadequate. Dana differentiates content and delivery to address first-year teachers and experienced teachers in the same audience. He keeps all discussion and modeling focused on student achievement and growth which encourages all in his training/lesson to buy-in because he deals with their doubts/misgivings in those student results.

Dana is also particularly affective at classroom walk-throughs and follow-up conversations to share observations with teachers and answer questions. Teachers look forward to these chances to confirm and correct instructional delivery and implementation of data.

Dana's command of the 5 components of reading has allowed us to use his talents to address the vertical integration of our District Reading/Writing Instructional Frameworks beyond the primary grades. As a result of Dana's effectiveness with our K-3 teachers, we have employed him to work with grades 4-12. Our focus is to continue the vertical integration of reading instruction by extending the use of PALS assessment data into 4th grade last year and 5th grade this year. Our goal is to move PALS through grades 6-8 in a gradual release process as continued support for the cohort of students struggling with the components of reading since primary. In addition, we see data driven reading instruction based on PALS for those students who tend to struggle with the increased shift to reading-to-learn in those intermediate years as a key to increasing student achievement/growth in high school and, thus, impact graduation rates.

Dana has become a valued member of planning teams at each of our intermediate, middle, and high schools. Because he has secondary teaching experience, he quickly develops credibility with those teachers who typically view reading instruction as an elementary responsibility. He easily reinforces the vertical integration of reading/writing instruction which is the focus of our District Reading/Writing Instructional Frameworks.

Without reservation, I can state that Dana Hall's professionalism and commitment to student learning will make him a valuable addition to the list of vendors. Should you have questions, contact me by email or phone listed below my signature.

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