The Omaha Public Schools believes in a balanced approach to literacy instruction where all students are assisted to reach their highest potential by actively engaging in authentic reading and writing experiences.

**Balanced Literacy Professional Development**

**Overarching Goal:**

To build a sustainable Balanced Literacy model that empowers teachers (classroom and special education teachers) to differentiate instruction to meet student needs and continuously refine teaching practices in a collaborative environment that leads to increased student achievement in literacy.

**2014-2017**

**Scaffolded for Success**

**Professional Development**

Training is provided during all three years of the grant for participants to include general and special education teachers, literacy facilitators, instructional coaches and CIA supervisors.

**Literacy Facilitator Training**

In Year 1 of the grant, district literacy facilitators will receive comprehensive training in how to support effective reading instruction.

**Development of Exemplar Classrooms**

Teachers working with a literacy facilitator will incorporate literacy strategies and open their classrooms for visits starting in Year 2 of the grant.

The Elementary Balanced Literacy Grant provides collaborative professional development and coaching through the following:

- Research-based professional development focusing on balanced literacy components provided to cohorts of classroom and special education teachers, new teachers, literacy facilitators, instructional coaches, and supervisors
- Professional development for district literacy facilitators on how to effectively support classroom teachers
- Classroom follow-up and coaching provided by district literacy facilitators
- Collaborative opportunities to assess student writing with grade level peers
- Development of exemplar classrooms district-wide in elementary schools
- Opportunities for teachers to visit exemplar classrooms in the district to see best practices of Balanced Literacy
- Professional Development on research-based reading interventions for elementary special education resource teachers

*EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY. PREPARED FOR SUCCESS.*
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**Balanced Literacy Professional Development**

“Thank you for the opportunity to experience the wonderful PD today! It was simply amazing. I cannot wait to utilize the information in my classroom”

Anna Clausen, MS
Columbian Elementary School

“I’ve been to many Guided Reading Seminars in the last year and this one was the most informative and accessible by far.”

Dani Finn
Chandler View Elementary

“Very informative and strategies I can take with me and use with my students.”

Annie Gutierrez
Skinner Magnet Center

“Best PD workshop EVER!!! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!”

Raquel Caldwell
Dundee Elementary School

“The quality of the presenters and the substance of their presentations has been the most continuous high level training I have ever received through 36 years in our business.”

Kevin Williams
Walnut Hill Elementary

“As a first year teacher this was helpful because it took an overwhelming concept and helped make it easier to grasp”

Jaimey Thorson
Boyd Elementary School