



JEFFERSON PARISH SCHOOLS Proposal for Professional Services

The University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning is an education innovation incubator dedicated to designing, building, and refining sustainable, scalable models that achieve life-changing improvements for children and educators. We believe that coaches are agents of change who can transform teaching and learning in the early learning programs they support. For this reason, we have invested in their development and created a rigorous certification program that validates and enhances their skills. This intense, job-embedded professional learning experience develops the skills of coaches who work in childcare centers, school-based programs, and family childcare homes. The certification program draws on the latest research and evidence-based practices from adult learning theory, effective professional development, and the work of noted scholars in early childhood education.

Jefferson Parish Schools is responsible for meeting the childcare and early education needs of Jefferson Parish children and their families. Jefferson Parish Schools' Early Childhood Program provides effective teacher-child interactions that are foundational to young children becoming life-long learners. High-quality early childhood education eases the transition to kindergarten and is critical to a child's long-term success.

Jefferson Parish Schools partnered with the UF Lastinger Center in 2018-2019 to offer an early learning coaching certification to a cohort of master teachers serving as technical assistance providers or other instructional support roles, who were interested in helping teachers improve their work and attain positive child outcomes. Jefferson Parish desires to continue the coaching supports provided to previously trained coaches and offer the certification to a new cohort of coaches.

Purpose

The Flamingo Early Learning Coaching program will develop a cadre of certified coaches who have the necessary skills to effectively coach adult learners. The certified coaches that emerge from this program can assist providers in creating a culture of continuous quality improvement using reflective practice as the vehicle for improving teaching and learning. Beyond certifying a new cadre of certified coaches, UF Lastinger Center will work with previously certified coaches through calibration sessions and the opportunity for recertification.

Coaches who successfully complete the Flamingo Early Learning Coaching program are prepared to:

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[Lastinger@coe.ufl.edu](mailto>Lastinger@coe.ufl.edu)
(352) 273-4103





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- Engage in brave, reflective, transformational conversations that shift teacher beliefs and practice.
- Prioritize teacher voice and enter a coaching relationship as a partner.
- Promote, affirm, and model inclusive teaching practices that support learning for all children.
- Partner with teachers to identify individual starting points for equity-oriented dialogue.
- Maximize opportunities to surface the assumptions about teaching, learning, and children from which educators operate.
- Create data displays that help teachers see how their beliefs are unfolding in practice and what impact they are having on children.
- Ask probing questions that serve as access points for critical conversations about culturally responsive teaching practices.
- Identify allies and develop collaborative networks as a mechanism to advance change.
- Critically reflect on their own practice and refine their skills via a parallel learning process.

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