

Initial Implementation Study of the Literacy Matrix Professional Development

The partnership between the UF College of Education (COE), Florida Center for Reading Research, and the Just Read, Florida! Office was established to develop a statewide literacy professional development system for K-12 teachers, coaches, and administrators. This system will provide targeted supports to improve knowledge and skill in implementing evidence-based strategies that improve reading proficiency among students, particularly those who are most at-risk.

With support from the James Patterson Foundation, the UF COE is developing The Literacy Matrix, an online tool for teachers to learn about essential, evidence-based concepts in reading and the strategies to apply them with students in the classroom. For each concept, the Matrix includes foundational content, along with how-to information in the areas of assessment, instruction, and intervention. The strand for each key concept concludes with application assignments that teachers will submit for review.

This study is for an initial implementation and evaluation of the Big Picture, Phonological Awareness, and Decoding strands for Kindergarten and first grade teachers. The study will provide robust evidence to the Department of Education leadership and the state legislature regarding the effectiveness of a competency-based, online statewide literacy professional development system.