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Brandy Archer

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# Free Professional Learning Modules to Support Pre-K through Third Grade Literacy

by Brandy Archer

Quality instruction to support literacy should, at a minimum, include ten specific research-based essential practices. Furthermore, these practices should be implemented intentionally and thoroughly. The “Essential Instructional Practices for Early Literacy for Prekindergarten and Kindergarten through Third Grade” documents, which explain these practices, are available online<sup>1</sup>. The documents are free to download and are accompanied by a guide for early literacy coaching and a school-wide/center-wide essentials document.

While the documents themselves are incredibly robust, professional learning is essential for understanding the full impact of these practices. Last summer, ISD literacy coaches (partially funded through an MDE grant) participated in one of two 4-day, in-depth trainings to dive deeply into the nuances of the practices. The trainings were led by a core group of researchers who are deeply knowledgeable about the practices. An MDE grant for professional learning is providing funding to transfer the learning into online modules to support all educators in the essential practices.

The instructional practice trainings were video-taped by Michigan Virtual University<sup>2</sup> (MVU) to capture the researchers in their own words. MVU will partner with EduPaths to incorporate the early literacy coaching training sessions into a set of learning modules designed for literacy coaches. MVU will also produce a series of learning modules for pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers.

The training modules will include video-taped vignettes of Michigan teachers utilizing the practices in classrooms across the state. In addition, the classroom videos will also be available as stand-alone resources, accessible to any Michigan teacher interested in understanding the practices more deeply.



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It is important to the partners developing these modules that the messages and examples around the practices be accurately and tightly aligned to the supporting research. To achieve this alignment, the researchers have provided their content expertise to review the modules and ensure the video examples are accurate representations of the practice.

The first set of videos will be available in Spring 2017. A feedback pilot will be conducted to ensure usability. The full suite of videos and professional learning modules will be available in late August.

## Author Biography

**Brandy Archer** is the Content Area Literacy Consultant for the Curriculum and Instruction unit in the Office of Education Improvement and Innovation at the Michigan Department of Education. Brandy's current work includes Intentional Instructional Practice training for teachers in the African American Young Men of Promise Initiative and supporting MDE's early literacy and mathematics initiative. For more information on the African American Young Men of Promise visit: <http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-297206--RSS,00.html> or email Brandy at: [archerb2@michigan.gov](mailto:archerb2@michigan.gov)

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gomaisa.org/general-education-leadership-network>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.mivu.org>