

## Professional Development for Empower™ Reading: Grades 6-8, Comprehension & Vocabulary

Required for program implementation, this professional development (PD) provides teachers with the knowledge and skills needed to confidently and effectively teach the Empower™ Reading: Grades 6-8, Comprehension and Vocabulary. The PD has been carefully developed over our many years of research, and incorporates components that have been shown to be important and effective. The PD also helps to ensure program and fidelity in order to achieve the ultimate goal of improving students' vocabulary development and reading comprehension skills.

### Professional Development: Workshops

- All workshops are conducted by experienced and highly-skilled Empower™ Reading Trainers.
- Two full-day, mandatory, professional development workshops are provided during the first year of program implementation. The first workshop day, offered before teaching begins, provides:
  - Current research on reading disabilities, vocabulary development, and evidence-based literacy training.
  - An overview of Empower™ Reading.
  - Interactive training, using modelling and opportunities for practice and feedback, with a focus on metacognition and vocabulary development, as well as the content and skills necessary for instructing the first three program strategies for fiction and non-fiction texts.
- The second workshop day, offered during the school year, is conducted in an interactive setting and focuses on:
  - Introducing the last two strategies and the related content and skills for fiction and non-fiction texts.
  - Modelling of lessons and practice opportunities for teachers.
- Annual half-day refresher workshops are provided as long as the teacher continues to teach Empower™ Reading. *Attendance is mandatory.*

### Professional Development: Mentoring/Coaching and In-Class Visits

- Each Empower™ Reading teacher receives individualized mentoring and coaching by an experienced Empower™ Reading Mentor/Coach.
- The role of the mentor/coach is to do all he/she can to support implementation of the program and to make it a positive and successful experience for both the teacher and his/her students.
- Mentors/coaches visit the teachers in their Empower™ Reading classroom two to three times during the first year of program implementation and one to two times during subsequent years of program delivery.
- During each visit, the mentor/coach:
  - Observes the teacher delivering the program to students.
  - May model all or part of a lesson with the students.
  - Provides feedback regarding program delivery such as pacing and teacher-student interactions.
  - Addresses teacher concerns and questions.
  - Reviews previously taught content and skills and highlight upcoming content and skills.
  - Monitors how students are progressing in the program.
- In addition to classroom visits, support is provided via email communications, website support, and virtual visits.