

SPOTLIGHT ON

# Educational Service Center of the Western Reserve



In this interview **Dr. Kelly Moran**, Director of Instructional Programs at the Educational Service Center of the Western Reserve, shares how the educational service center used Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to help combat student learning loss during the pandemic by providing additional training and literacy coaches to several districts in their area.

## **Q: What problem did you deal with coming back to the building?**

We saw that the learning loss happening across the state was also happening to us. We decided to use ESSER funding to train literacy coaches. Some of our districts don't even have a coach, and the ones that do only have one person who's spread thin. **Training new coaches and bringing these masterminds together to collaborate was a radical solution.**

## **Q: How has this new collaboration helped the districts?**

It gave us an opportunity to let our guards down and ask new people for help. **We now have eight coaches across six districts. Those eight created a professional learning network of more than 30 teachers, literacy coaches and administrators.** They all work together now to share actionable feedback and put it into practice immediately.



**Q: How has the ESSER funding made an impact?**

It broke down barriers that many of us have experienced in recent decades. The traditional models weren't as effective, and the work is more difficult than it has ever been. These funds allowed us to think outside the box. It feels like the state is really championing our work.



**Q: What was the most valuable resource everyone received from these initiatives?**

Time. **The literacy coaches have been gifted more time to hone their skills.** They're going through AIM Institute Training, LETRS training, even video chatting with state literacy leads. It's made them better leaders and allowed them to lean on each other and support one another.



Educational Service Center of the Western Reserve say the funds allowed us to **think outside the box** to make our teachers better leaders and lifelong learners.