



## Virtual Community of Practice

**What is a Community of Practice?** It is well researched (Lave & Wenger, 1991; Wenger, 2014) that a Community of Practice (CoP) is a powerful tool for extending the coaching function that helps educators actually apply the skills learned through professional training opportunities in their classrooms. Furthermore, when a CoP is facilitated and designed well, it serves as an effective coaching tool by deepening evidence-based knowledge and practice through readings, real-time scenarios including case studies and discussions, problem solving, coaching, and sharing experiences across membership.

### AIM Virtual Community of Practice

Utilizing online resources and an online meeting platform, experts from AIM Institute for Learning & Research will be launching a Virtual Community of Practice (VCoP) in alignment with the Pathways to Proficient Reading course.

#### Active participants in the Virtual CoP will gain the opportunity to:

- Deepen their knowledge related to the science of reading and for how to teach students based on the 5 pillars of reading instruction outlined in the National Reading Panel Report (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension) as well as the RAND Report on Reading Comprehension
- Deepen their knowledge on how to translate the research into practice for coaching others to apply the content learned from the Pathways to Proficient Reading course
- Develop relationships with members within their CoP cohort
- Build a common language focused on the science of reading
- Participate in developing their individualized professional learning plan outlining follow-up training and opportunities for continuing education
- Increase preparedness for the Certification Examination for Effective Reading Instruction (CEERI)



The VCoP will convene for one hour (time TBD) on the first Thursday of every month from September through June (10 meetings in total). We will use an online platform to hold meetings and to store the community's readings/pre-work/recordings. All participants will be required to have access to computers and have high-speed Internet access.

One week prior to each virtual community meeting, participants will receive an e-mail reminder of logistics, pre-work, and topic overview. Within one week of the virtual meeting date, participants will receive their VCoP newsletter with extension information on the previous topic and an overview of the following month's meeting.

Aside from actively participating in the monthly virtual meetings, members of the community will be expected to complete all pre-work and pre-readings, and to directly engage with the work of the community.

To ensure that time is maximized, each session will generally adhere to the following structure: 25 minutes of fresh content delivered by AIM facilitator/video/community member; 30 minutes of roundtable discussions among the community; 5 minutes of close-out and next steps. It is important to note that depending on the specific community needs and requests, the structure may be modified to ensure maximum engagement and outcomes.