**TO:** Directors of Exceptional Children Programs

 Reading Research to Classroom Practice and Foundations of Math Certified Instructors

**FROM:** Dr. Carol Ann M. Hudgens, Senior Director, Office of Exceptional Children

 Ginger Cash, Section Chief, Program Improvement & Professional Development

 Melissa Towery, NC State Improvement Project (NC SIP) Director

**DATE:** August 1, 2023

**NC SIP REGIONAL COACHES: APPLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

To build stronger regional support and local capacity to achieve the goals of the NC SIP grant, the Office of Exceptional Children will provide an opportunity for currently employed and certified Reading Research to Classroom Practice (RRtCP) and Foundations of Mathematics (FoM) instructors to expand their influence in the role of NC SIP Regional Coach. The Regional Coaches selected through the competitive application process will work closely with NC DPI OEC Literacy and Mathematics Consultants to develop teaming structures to assist with provision and active implementation of regional professional learning. There will be a limited number of instructors selected for this role.

The link within the application contains information to be read by the applicant and leadership before completing the application. Documents include Professional Maxims and Dispositions and Roles and Responsibilities. The Regional Coach Selection Process will draw existing data from course evaluations of course delivery, as well as High-Quality Professional Development observation and Content Fidelity Check. If you have a desire to participate as an NC SIP Regional Coach, can meet the responsibilities, requirements, professional dispositions and have received approval from your district, please complete the application. The link to that application and the documents described above is here: <https://forms.office.com/r/6jEyG9wUS9>

To be considered complete, an application will include endorsements from PSU leadership (EC Director, Principal, NCSIP Coordinator and/or direct supervisor) as well as three peers who are familiar with your work related to the provision of the RRtCP/FoM course(s). These signed endorsements are to be emailed to Melissa Towery, melissa.towery@dpi.nc.gov and copy the regional state mathematics or literacy consultant by the individual making the recommendation. The link for forms used for the endorsements may be found within the application. It is the applicant’s responsibility to follow-up and ensure that the form is completed and submitted by the deadline. The electronic application, peer recommendations and the PSU endorsements must be submitted by September 1, 2023.

The NC SIP team understands that the roles and responsibilities of Regional Coach represent a sizable commitment by individuals and school districts. The Regional Coach will be out of the district for approximately 20 days per year, but some work will be carried out during time in their PSU’s through webinars and grading tasks. With this information in mind, the benefits to individuals who are selected to participate as a Regional Coach, as well as the public school units in which they work, are described below.

Benefits to PSU’s with Regional Coaches

* Provides increased opportunities to build capacity within a PSU to include high quality coaching
* Serves as a provider of RRtCP or FoM state-level courses in the instructor development process
* Supports the PSU Self-Assessment and development of an Improvement Plan
* Will be the first to have the opportunity to co-deliver virtual blended-learning Foundations courses
* Increased level of engagement with the NC SIP project
* Stipend support for Regional Coach responsibilities that extend beyond current PSU position
* Serves on the state-level implementation team for the NC SIP project
* Receives professional development and coaching in best practices of how to provide a coaching continuum within a PSU including virtual coaching
* Delivers professional learning during the Spring Network Conference- attends all 3 days, Summer Institutes based on need at the state level and other opportunities (e.g., Fall/Winter Symposium) designed specifically for the needs of Regional Coaches
* Engages in leadership opportunities relevant to evaluation standards
* Receives revised Foundations content from course developers
* Refines coaching skills related to peer-observation, individual, and group coaching

Regional Coach Application Process

Additional information that will be used in the selection of NC SIP Regional Coaches will draw from existing data such as evaluations of RRtCP and FoM course delivery, as well as High-Quality Professional Development observations and Content Fidelity Checks.

 ✓ Closely read Regional Coach Job Responsibilities and Requirements and Professional Dispositions.

 ✓ If you have a desire to participate, can meet the responsibilities, requirements, professional dispositions and have received approval from your district, complete the application and submit before or by the deadline of **September 1, 2023**.

✓ Request that these three individuals: EC Director, immediate supervisor, and NC SIP Coordinator complete the Leadership Endorsement Form. It is the applicant’s responsibility to follow-up and ensure that the form is completed and submitted by the deadline of **September 1, 2023**.

✓ Request three peers, who are familiar with your work related to the provision of the Foundations course, complete the Peer Recommendation Form. It is the applicant’s responsibility to follow-up and ensure that the form is completed and submitted by the deadline of **September 1, 2023**.

✓ Please be aware that you may be requested to interview with the DPI NC SIP team face-to-face or virtually.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Melissa Towery at Melissa.Towery@dpi.nc.gov or 984-236-2591.