



Bullitt County Public Schools

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TO: Dr. Jesse Bacon, Superintendent 

FROM: Adrienne Usher, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning 

RE: Bellarmine University/BCPS Bellarmine Literacy Project MOU

DATE: May 11, 2021

The attached Memorandum of Understanding explains contract details between Bullitt County Public Schools and Bellarmine University for the Bellarmine Literacy Project (BLP). The BLP is a professional learning collaboration initiative between Bellarmine University and Bullitt County Public Schools for the 2020-2021 school year. The focus of this project is to provide teachers with the expert knowledge and tools to identify and address a child's diagnostic and prescriptive needs related to the five components of reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension). In addition, BCPS is working to create an on-going professional learning experience that not only creates teacher leaders in this project, but also provides continuous support for new and past participants of the project. This vision will ensure fidelity to the teaching framework, best practices of early literacy in all primary classrooms, and a centralized process for district level progress monitoring of data for reading on-grade-level throughout the primary years of our students. In addition, our elementary schools that have the Read To Achieve (RTA) Grant use this training as the foundation of training provided for their RTA Teacher and the required additional teacher.

The BLP professional learning framework involves the following:

- A new cohort (15 teachers) will be added for the 2021-2022 school year open to teachers of Grades K-3 and Special Education. Participating teachers will gain 6 hours of college credit through Bellarmine University towards a Masters in Literacy at BU or other university/college. Teachers will start the program in July 2021 and meet every other week throughout the school year.

The total cost of the Bellarmine Literacy Project with Bellarmine University is \$27,000 to be funded through Title II funds. BLP texts, student assessments and other resources needed by/for teachers will be funded through the Student Learning Department budget. All contracts have been reviewed by Buckman & Farris, LLC. Approval is requested for the Bellarmine University/BCPS Bellarmine Literacy Project MOU for the 2021-2022 school year.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Bullitt County Public Schools
and
Bellarmine University - Annsley Frazier Thornton School of Education

For Collaboration in the Delivery of the 2020-2021
Bullitt County Public Schools Reading Academy for Teachers in Selected Schools

In order to provide assistance for developing master teachers of reading in kindergarten through grade 3 classrooms in Bullitt County Public Schools, the Annsley Frazier Thornton School of Education (AFTSE) at Bellarmine University agrees to offer professional services pursuant to delivering Year 4 of *The Bullitt County Public Schools Reading Academy* for identified teachers serving children in grades K through 3. Specifically identified faculty members from the AFTSE of Bellarmine University shall assist BCPS staff in the implementation of school improvement activities that include the following:

Delivery of Year 1 Reading Academy [referred to hereafter as the “Academy”] for a new cohort with a maximum of 15 identified teachers. The Year 1 Academy consists of a 90-hour capacity building professional development program in evidence-based literacy practices. The Bullitt County Public Schools Reading Academy will be delivered through a combination of online class sessions and face to face class sessions which will be held at a Bullitt County School site that is established by the administration staff and convenient for participating teachers. Bellarmine University will provide six (6) hours of graduate credit for the selected teachers who successfully complete the Academy program. This course credit may be applied to a graduate studies program (e.g., Rank I, Literacy Specialist endorsement, Master of Arts in Education) at Bellarmine University and many other higher education institutions.

Bellarmino University will provide invoices for services totaling \$27, 500 for the project (see Addendum). Invoices will be sent at the end of each semester with payment due within thirty days. All services must be completed by May 15, 2022. In addition, Bellarmine University shall:

Assist with the selection of professional development and classroom materials for teachers/participants and coaches to be purchase by Bullitt County Public Schools in support of Academy participation;

On behalf of the teachers and principals in the targeted schools, and central office staff participating in the Academy, Bullitt County Public Schools agrees to:

Collaborate with assigned BU faculty in the sharing of pertinent school, student, demographic, and participant data for the preparation and evaluation of the Academy;

Cooperate with the assigned BU faculty to implement and evaluate measures designed to improve facets of the schools’ reading/literacy program.

An addendum is attached with the budget for this project detailing financial responsibilities for Bullitt County Public Schools and Bellarmine University.

The term of this Agreement for Year 1 shall be from June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022.

The undersigned have reviewed this Memorandum of Understanding and accept it as the basis for Annsley Frazier Thornton School of Education of Bellarmine University provision of The Bullitt County Public Schools. This agreement is adjustable and renewable upon the mutual consent of the Bullitt County Public Schools and Bellarmine University.

Susan M Donovan 4/28/2021
Dr. Susan Donovan Date
President, Bellarmine University

Ms. Debbie Atherton Date
Chairperson, Bullitt County Board of
Education

Mr. Jesse Bacon Date
Superintendent, Bullitt County Public Schools