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Submitted by

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P-3 Literacy & Evaluation for The Big Lift
www.thebiglift.org

Service

Leadership for Literacy

Letter of Reference

Thanks for reaching out. I'm glad to share our experience with CORE Learning: Professional Learning for School and District Leaders.

Who attended & overall reception

Leaders from eight districts participated—seven superintendents, several associate/assistant superintendents, directors of curriculum and instruction, literacy TOSAs, principals, and other literacy leadership staff. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive; a number of leaders described it as the best training they've attended. As with any PD, not every element resonated for every attendee, but the strong consensus was that it was a high-value use of time.

Fit for varying levels of Science of Reading (SoR) readiness

For teams already deep into SoR, some early content will feel like review. For those still building foundational understanding, the essentials are covered clearly and effectively. Importantly, even experienced administrators found value in the system-level leadership focus—most haven't had explicit training on how to move an entire school system to SoR.

What stood out

- Day 2 team time: Structured planning with teams was particularly impactful.
- Change-management tools: Practical artifacts leaders could take back and use immediately.
- Leadership moves & structures: Clear guidance on roles, routines, timelines, and monitoring aligned to SoR implementation.

Direct responses to CORE Learning's questions

1) Was professional development worthwhile?

Yes. It bridges SoR content with concrete leadership actions—how to organize, communicate, resource, and monitor implementation across a system.

2) Have you heard back from participating districts?

Yes. Follow-up has been very positive, especially praising the Day 2 planning time and the literacy change-management tools.

3) Would you recommend it for skilled principals/leaders?

Absolutely. Even strong leaders benefited from the explicit, system-level playbook for leading SoR—beyond theory and into sustained implementation.

If helpful, I'm happy to answer specific questions or connect you with one of our superintendents for a quick perspective.

Note from CORE Learning

If you would like to learn more about San Mateo County Office of Education's experience, please contact us at info@corelearn.com. We would be happy to connect you to a member of their team.