

# The LeARner Collective

## Creating Conditions for Literacy Success

*We believe that Arkansas educators know what our students and schools need to be successful. To **improve learning for all students**, conditions in schools must be in place for both educators and students to thrive.*

Forward is excited to partner with Arkansas educators to support your ongoing commitment to putting students at the center of everything you do. Educators are problem solvers by nature. Through this program, we seek to empower you with more time and space to step back, reflect on what is happening in your school, and determine better ways to utilize strengths and address challenges.

**The LeARner Collective** is an opportunity for a team from your school (principal, teachers, and other staff members) to work together – with guidance and support from partners – to develop creative and practical solutions to address those challenges.

This first cycle will specifically focus on **Creating Conditions for Literacy Success** in your school.

Over the course of six months, school teams across the Northwest and Delta regions will explore ideas and solutions to improve structures, routines and practices around literacy. We are partnering with **2Revolutions** to facilitate deep coaching support for educators and schools as they work to answer the question: **“How might we create the conditions to improve and sustain literacy learning for all students?”**

Participating **schools will receive a \$5000 grant to support their work** through the program (e.g., stipends, substitutes, travel, supplies).



### What do we mean by “conditions?”

Anything that impacts learner success, such as teacher practices, staff roles, scheduling, etc. School teams will determine what they focus on, but here are examples of what you might explore:

- Creative scheduling for teachers and staff to unlock flexible planning to better serve students
- Co-teaching to enable more small group instruction or targeted intervention
- Reallocating school budget for resources to improve the culture of literacy
- Integrative and effective implementation of high quality resources and materials
- Knowledge and skill building of teachers to support the planning and execution of high quality literacy lessons

### Why Join?

- Connect with educators across your region and the state solving similar problems
- Learn from one another, national case studies, and best practices
- Explore, create, and pilot solutions to your existing challenges
- Experience a fresh approach to professional learning that empowers educators through leadership and capacity building in alignment with local needs
- Connect with future opportunities to receive additional resources and support



## Who's Eligible?

While we will offer future opportunities for schools across the state, **in this cycle**:

- Elementary & Middle schools in districts located within Benton, Washington, Phillips, and Jefferson Counties are eligible.
- School teams will consist of 3 to 5 individuals including the principal, at least 2 teachers and up to 2 additional team members of your choice.

## What's the Commitment?

This Collective will include three in-person gatherings with virtual coaching in between. In each session you will work with your school team as well as collaborate with other schools in your region. The following provides an overview of the time commitment, key dates and objectives.

IN-PERSON	VIRTUAL
<b>Collective Kickoff - October 2023</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assess current strengths and barriers</li><li>• Explore potential solutions</li><li>• Design a pilot for your school</li></ul>	<b>Monthly Collaborative Planning Sessions</b> (Nov, Dec, Feb, Mar) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implementation support through learning, collaborative planning, and peer feedback.</li></ul>
<b>Collective Gathering - January 2024</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflect and refine your pilot solution with support and feedback from coaches and peers</li></ul>	
<b>Collective Celebration of Learning - March 2024</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Celebrate progress and learning</li><li>• Plan for next steps to scale your pilot solutions</li><li>• Learn about opportunities for future support</li></ul>	<b>Bi-weekly Office Hours</b> (optional) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Targeted coaching from partners to address implementation challenges</li></ul>

**APPLY HERE**

<https://bit.ly/leARnercollectivep1app>

For more information please contact **Courtney Lincoln** ([clincoln@forwardarkansas.org](mailto:clincoln@forwardarkansas.org)) or **Meghan Thompson** ([mthompson@forwardarkansas.org](mailto:mthompson@forwardarkansas.org)).

## About Forward

**Forward Arkansas** is an independent education organization founded in 2015 by the Walton Family Foundation and Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation to address critical challenges facing the Arkansas Pre-K-12 education system and drive progress towards excellent outcomes in career and life for every student.