



Unified School District 470

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Dr. Jan Voss, Ass't. Supt.,
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To Whom It May Concern:
Re: Literacy First Professional Development Model
From: Jan Voss, Assistant Superintendent-Arkansas City, Kansas

Results from the last two years using Professional Development Institute's model for literacy training confirms our continued commitment to the model. My goal in writing this letter of support is to let you know while we have made tremendous student achievement gains in the last five years, all elementaries reaching the Standards of Excellence in one or two subject, we are a district in progress and acknowledge the learning of students is a direct result of administrative and teacher leadership.

Literacy First has provided scaffolding for Arkansas City Elementary Schools to implement research-based, best practice literacy instructional practices and has also helped us to successfully reduce the achievement gap for our students with limited English and special education needs.

Because we have created a systems approach to school improvement it is necessary to also state that no one program or model can create lasting, deep, meaningful change without "going beyond the model". Literacy First can support this process. The ability to allow a systems approach that produces and sustains high quality learning is a vital resource for individuals, teams, and organizations, The Literacy First perspective has required our continued focus of moving from a system of teaching to a system of learning where teachers not only feel the responsibility to assure learning for all but also believe they are being given the strategies to support this systems approach.

Literacy First has helped USD 470, Arkansas City, Kansas create more than one view of what matters for student learning with a congruent view of what matters to support the learning of the adults who teach those students.

Dr. Jan Voss
Assistant Superintendent
USD 470
Arkansas City School District