



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 2023

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RI Science of Reading Hosts First Conference at The Compass School

KINGSTON, RI -- On September 23, 2023, The Rhode Island Chapter of the Science of Reading (RISOR), in collaboration with educators and practitioners, offered its first professional development conference dedicated to enhancing the literacy instruction skills of teachers. The event took place at The Compass School and featured breakout sessions led by RI educators and distinguished keynote speakers, Dr. Elsa Cardenas-Hagan and Brandee Lapisky.

Dr. Elsa Cardenas-Hagan, a renowned expert in literacy and multilingual learner instruction, discussed strategies for effective literacy instruction among Multilingual Learners (MLLs) that build upon their first language and literacy knowledge for the development of second language literacy.

Brandee Lapisky, Director of The Compass School, shared her school's journey of literacy transformation. She discussed the challenges and successes encountered when harnessing the winds of literacy change, emphasizing the importance of adapting evidence-based literacy practices and supporting educators.

RISOR is a community of educators who live in RI committed to connecting the latest research in reading with classroom teaching practices. The RISOR Conference, sponsored by RIDE, 95 Percent Group, Great Minds and B&M Catering Co., offered an opportunity for administrators and educators to gain valuable knowledge and insights from experts in the field. Attendees left with practical strategies and a deeper understanding of evidence-based practices to support literacy development.

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The event's impact is captured in the feedback of a conference attendee, "I have never been to a conference with so many sessions that I wanted to attend. I honestly could have attended every single one. They were so applicable and practical. Also, the presenters each provided resources I could use immediately ... Gathering together with like minded individuals, focused on student success, really helped me to get my year started in the right direction. I cannot wait until next year!"

The Compass School is a high-performing K-8 public charter and nationally recognized Green Ribbon School. Since 2002, Compass' mission is to offer a multi-age learning community that fosters a passion for learning in all students so they can reach their full potential. The school uses a project-based curriculum integrating academic disciplines, emphasizing social responsibility and environmental sustainability, in small classroom settings to prepare each graduate to be a responsible citizen in the global community. In 2017, the school grew The Compass Farm, which is the largest school garden in the state, serving as a resource center and replication model. For more information, visit: www.compassschool.org.

RISOR is the Rhode Island Chapter of the Science of Reading: What I Should Have Learned In College FB Group. As educators, we understand that we grow stronger by continuing our professional learning so we can be empowered to help all students succeed. This is a positive, supportive, and informative collegial community of educators and practitioners. Our mission is to inform and deliver to teachers professional development in evidence-based practices. For more information, visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/rhodeislandscienceofreading/home>.

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