

Reading Specialist: Advisory Board Meetings

2024-2025

2024-2025 Advisory Board: The October 21, 2024 Advisory Board included 7 attendees. They represented department faculty members and leaders from three school districts. Faculty highlighted recent updates, such as adding more emphasis on writing, adolescent literacy, and policy. Courses included assessment, action research, and practica, with efforts to make content more practical and classroom based. Challenges discussed included placing students without their own classrooms and ensuring meaningful field experiences.

Participants from school districts provided feedback. They noted limited availability of reading specialist roles, with more demand for literacy coaches and classroom teachers with strong reading skills. The dual licensure (reading plus English as a Second Language or special education) was discussed as highly valuable, especially given staffing shortages and diverse student needs. There was a strong emphasis on foundational reading skills and the science of reading. Considerations included balancing program length with flexibility, as teachers prefer faster, more convenient options but still need rigorous content. Suggestions included expanding writing instruction, offering flexible scheduling, improving marketing (especially highlighting multiple certifications), and clarifying the program's value for both classroom teachers and those seeking leadership roles.