

Dear Principal,

A staff member from your school has applied to participate in The Academy for the Science of Instruction professional learning program for school leaders: **Leading School Transformation: Using an Evidence-based Approach.**

**Applicant name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Program date and location:** \_\_\_\_\_

The program seeks to support school leadership teams to develop a deeper understanding of the educational evidence base of school improvement, the science of learning and the science of reading, and how to apply this knowledge to transform their school to positively impact student outcomes.

### **Overall program objectives**

Participants will:

- gain a broad perspective of the Australian education context, including the related challenges and complexities of leading school improvement to achieve meaningful student outcomes
- identify high impact evidence-based levers and a hierarchical process to determining the 'right' work to improve student outcomes
- understand the key concepts from research that support the science of learning and Science of Reading, and the implications these have for leading effective teaching and learning in schools
- design an action plan for school improvement, utilising an evidence-based approach, with school-based data as a foundation.

As part of the preparation for the program there are some pre-readings and pre-work to complete, which will assist participants to gain the most out of the workshop activities.

### **Program pre-reading list**

1. Leadership for Learning: A framework synthesizing recent research (Neil Dempster, 2009).
2. The Science of Learning (Deans for Impact, 2015) & The Science of Early Learning (Deans for Impact, 2019).
3. The principles of instruction: Research-based strategies all teachers should know (Barak Rosenshine, 2012).
4. *Explicit Instruction: Effective and efficient teaching*, excerpt Chapter 1: Exploring the foundations of explicit instruction (Anita Archer and Charles Hughes, 2011).
5. Case studies: Blue Haven Public School, Grace Lutheran College.

### **Program pre-work**

- **School data to bring to workshop:** (please note that principal endorsement allows for the participant to access and bring school data to the workshop for their own reference during activities).
  - **Behaviour and engagement** (student opinion data) measures
  - **Attendance data** – including ‘categories’ of attendance
  - **NAPLAN Reading, Writing, Numeracy:**
    - relative progress and achievement data
    - Proficiency levels – % of students Literacy/Numeracy proficiency
- **Pre-work activity:** Alignment of evidence-based practices – Archer & Hughes/Rosenshine

As part of the program endorsement, we expect participants to follow up with their principal after the program workshop to share their learning insights and the action plan they will develop during the workshop activities. It would be greatly appreciated if you could schedule a meeting with them shortly after they complete the course, to support implementation of their plan. This will be a significant boost to their learning journey.

Yours sincerely,

Georgie Wynne

Course Convenor

Principal endorsement: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_