

# THE MESPA LITERACY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

MESPA is pleased to announce its first extended Literacy Leadership Academy focused on the effective implementation of Multi-Tiered System of Support (RtI).

## **WHAT:**

This Literacy Leadership Academy seeks to work with ten teams from rural, urban, and suburban districts. They will have six days of instruction and meetings with each other on August 1, 2, and 3, 2012, and will form a network to work together with each other and experts on three subsequent days during the school year, both electronically and face-to-face.

Building-based teams that are selected will be guided through the process of establishing the essential components of MTSS (RtI) such as:

- ♦Evidence-based Assessment and Curriculum
- ♦Assessment-driven instruction for all students in a tiered framework
- ♦Ongoing Professional Development for Administrators and Teachers

Examples of Topics:

- ♦Establishing and Maintaining a Literacy Team and a Site Action Plan
- ♦The Critical Role of Leadership so that all staff are on board
- ♦Running Data Meetings and Use of Data
- ♦The Roles of Reading Coaches, Principals, Parents, Paras and Others
- ♦Collective Responsibility – reallocating and sharing resources
- ♦Self-Assessment of Implementation to “Progress Monitor” a school’s progress as it develops this model

MTSS, when successfully implemented, can reinvigorate faculty by forming group cohesiveness and pride when working collaboratively and then seeing children succeed.

This Literacy Leadership Academy for MTSS will extend the work done at MESPA’s Winter Conferences, both in 2010, with Dr. Tom Jenkins, and on January 24, 2011, with Dr. George Batsche, both important national leaders in this area.

## **WHEN:**

**Dates: August 1, 2, and 3, 2012 + 3 dates throughout the 2012 – 13 school year (to be determined by the participants) + the MESPA Spring Conference**

**Location: MESPA Education and Technology Center in Marlborough**

**Registration Deadline:  
May 15, 2012**



**FEES: \$1,225 per person**

**Possible funding sources:**

**Race to the Top  
Title II  
Special Education  
Private Foundation**

**Graduate credit and  
PDP’s will be available.**

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## Why

MTSS or RtI is an important means of truly differentiating instruction and combining several “hot topics” in education today, such as Professional Learning Communities, Differentiated Instruction and Teaching Quality. MTSS is a framework that makes it possible to improve learning for **ALL** students, if done properly. Since it can be complex, it demands that staff work together and that the “silos” of Title 1, Special Education, General Education and ELL have bridges connecting them. Critical to success of MTSS is strong leadership.



## WHO:

School Teams will be chosen based on the following criteria:

- Participation by a critical mass of administrators and teacher leaders from the same school with central office representation: A **minimum** of five people (two administrators from central office, building principal, and at least two teachers in the participating school). Applications may include more than one school in a district if each building principal and other critical staff members are present as well as central office personnel.
- Participants must attend the three-day Literacy Leadership Academy on August 1, 2, and 3, 2012.
- Participants must attend the three days throughout the year of the whole group. Dates will be set after consultation with the participants.
- Participants must be willing to be part of a network of people who continue to meet and partake in follow-up activities with experts in Literacy and MTSS (RtI) and presentations by administrators experienced with MTSS (RtI) and must also participate in the electronic and/or digital conversation.
- Participants will participate in the 2013 MESPA Spring Conference, for a culminating event. Conference registration is included in the fee for this Academy (does not include accommodations).



## Presenter:

**Sally Grimes** will be the lead presenter in this Academy. She will be joined by others who are experienced in MTSS and Literacy, such as Dr. Eric Conti, Superintendent of Burlington Public Schools, who have been working with MESPA helping MESPA’s leadership efforts in the area of literacy in the Commonwealth. **Sally** has provided consulting and professional development services in the area of Literacy for both administrators and teachers for over 15 years. In addition, Sally’s experience includes teaching (pre-K through graduate school), diagnostic work, policy development, public service, and administration. Sally is the founding director of The Grimes Reading Institute, an entity that was involved in the design and implementation of the Massachusetts Reading First Professional Development Plan under the No Child Left Behind Act. Sally was also a Lead Trainer for the Reading First Grant as well as for the Bay State Readers Grant and also assisted in developing the curriculum for those grants. Sally received her Master’s Degree in Reading and Human Development from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and her Bachelor’s Degree from University of Illinois at Chicago.



**Apply today by completing the attached form.**

