

Jo-Ann M. Baca

Dr. Jo-Ann M. Baca has been an educator in Delaware for 30 years. Her strengths in reading and special education have been at the heart of her work as both a consultant and an adjunct professor. She led reading experts from across the state to create Success for Secondary Struggling Readers (SSSR), a professional development program for teachers of diverse learners and struggling readers in grades 4-12. This was followed with the development of Implementing Multiple Practices for Activating Comprehension in Teaching (IMPACT), with more extensive training in researched-based instruction. She consulted in all areas of reading instruction, grades pre-K-12, for Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) including Reading First development, implementation, and evaluation. She has taught undergraduate and graduate teacher education courses in reading/special education for the last 11 years.

Since 2005 she has been working for the University of Delaware in various capacities including as a consultant and an adjunct professor. As an adjunct professor, she has taught EDUC 414, Educating Exceptional Adolescents, EDUC 310, Teaching Reading and Writing in the Primary Grades, and EDUC 436, Literacy Problems: Assessment and Instruction. Since 2006 her consulting work for UD and DDOE has included conducting research and interpreting data to evaluate various professional development programs dealing with inclusive schools and reading.

In 2008 she worked for DDOE on policies and procedures for Delaware's charter school renewal applications and created the rubrics used to measure the strength of the applications. Her most recent work for UD includes working with district administration to analyze and determine a school's professional development needs and then working to meet those needs, particularly in the area of inclusion. In addition to teaching and consulting, she currently conducts training to secondary school teachers and paraprofessionals to increase the inclusion of special education students into the general education programs.