



*K-12 Teachers Alliance Featured Presenter:*

# Dr. Brenda Joiner Overturf

## Presentation Topics

- 21ST CENTURY LEARNING
- COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS
- DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION
- URBAN EDUCATION
- ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS
- LITERACY
- RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION

## Biography

Dr. Brenda Joiner Overturf is a presenter dedicated to literacy achievement for all ages. She was an award-winning classroom teacher for 18 years in Kentucky public schools and a consultant with the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative before serving six years as the Jefferson County Public Schools (Louisville, KY) District Reading Coordinator. In JCPS, she was responsible for designing literacy curriculum and delivering professional development for 152 schools and thousands of K-12 teachers, as well as directing Reading Excellence, Reading First, and Read to Achieve grants for the district.

In 2005, Overturf joined the faculty of the University of Louisville to lead the graduate program in Reading Education. While there, she designed and taught a variety of K-12 literacy courses, was a partner in a federal Striving Readers grant to develop adolescent literacy, and was the director of the U of L Kentucky Reading Project for elementary teachers.

Dr. Overturf is an elected member of the Board of Directors for the International Reading Association (2009-2012), where she has been a literacy leader around the globe. She has been part of the Kentucky Leadership Network focused on implementation of the Common Core State Standards since they were adopted in 2010, and is currently under contract for a forthcoming book about teaching vocabulary to high-risk students.

Dr. Overturf is a full-time consultant who is in high demand for her interactive, engaging, yet research-based presentations. Her teacher-friendly style and student-focused content plus her ability to work with a variety of grade levels and professional groups make her workshops relevant for any setting.

## Academic & Professional Qualifications

- Ed.D. degree in Supervision with emphasis in Literacy Education – University of Louisville
- M.Ed. degree in Elementary Education with K-12 Reading Specialist Certification– Eastern Kentucky University
- 18 years classroom teaching experience, Grades 1-8
- Extensive experience designing and delivering professional development in literacy for elementary, middle school, and high school workshops, institutes, conferences, and special projects
- Wide variety of literacy leadership experiences:
  - Former District K-12 Reading Coordinator for Louisville, KY
  - Former University of Louisville literacy faculty member and chair of K-12 Literacy Education
  - Board of Directors, International Reading Association 2009-2012
  - Kentucky Leadership Network on ELA Common Core State Standards
- Author of a forthcoming book with a major publisher on vocabulary instruction for high-risk learners

*"Brenda Overturf knows her reading! She's a fun presenter (very knowledgeable) and makes digging into the Common Core Standards a "want-to" experience!"*  
— Janet M.

*"Dr. Overturf is one of the most knowledgeable teachers I have ever had. She is not only a great teacher, but a wonderful person. Her sessions are always engaging, interesting, and phenomenal."*  
— Rolando M.

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