

# South East Education Cooperative

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## National expert, area educators focus on Improving Academic Literacy

**Fargo, N.D.** - National education expert Dr. Kevin Feldman will lead area instructors through two days of sessions focusing on the Improving Academic Literacy (IAL) project as part of an ongoing and year-long professional learning opportunity. This training is part of the South East Education Cooperative's (SEEC) use of Succeed 2020 grant funds, which are intended to support the successful transition to college and careers for all North Dakota students.

On March 8-9, staff from SEEC in Fargo will facilitate this team learning exercise that includes Learning Walks to classrooms of IAL team members. Learning Walks consist of teacher groups observing current IAL participants using learned student engagement and "visible learning" strategies in their classrooms, followed by feedback from the group. On March 8, visits will be held at Sheyenne and West Fargo high schools, while March 9 will include Learning Walks at Northern Cass Elementary School.

The project, now in its second year at SEEC, is already making a visible impact in area schools.

"This project has had an enormous impact on the effectiveness and culture of our school. Before this project, our classroom doors were generally closed for business. Now, they remain open with voices screaming 'Come observe me!' It has been great to see this transformation happen in such a short time. I'm excited to see where this project takes us in the future," said David Schneck, a teacher at Bennett Elementary School in Fargo.

Feldman, with more than 40 years of experience in education, is recognized as a national leader on accelerating literacy of struggling readers, English language learners and students with disabilities. He is the past director of reading and intervention for the Sonoma County Office of Education and is an independent educational consultant who works with school districts across the country.

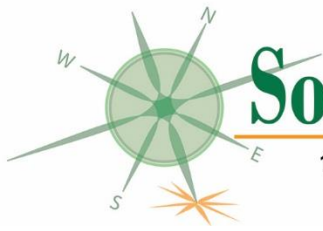
The project focuses on working with teams of "master teachers" from each school to combine research-based strategies with implementation, feedback and coaching. The IAL project's goals are to familiarize teachers with and implement research-based strategies that will increase student achievement for learners in grades K-12. Participants commit to five days of professional learning opportunities held throughout the school year.

"I have attended many trainings in my 17 years of teaching, but never have I witnessed the amount of immediate positive change as I have this past school year as a result of this training," said Amy Lyons, a teacher at Lisbon Middle School. "Thanks for all your work putting this incredible training together."

The SEEC project has seen tremendous growth in its second year, expanding from 46 participants to over 140. Teacher and administrator teams from schools in Fargo, Jamestown, Milnor, North Sargent, Northern Cass, Oakes, Wahpeton and West Fargo will be part of the upcoming two-day training event.

The IAL project, led by Dr. Feldman, has also been successful at the Mid-Dakota Education Cooperative (MDEC) based in Minot. After witnessing the success of the IAL project in Fargo, MDEC recently held its initial IAL training sessions with 36 participants, and has already scheduled the training again for 2017.

**MORE ABOUT SEEC:** SEEC is one of eight regional education associations in North Dakota. REAs provide service and support to school districts within their region, working to enhance the education experience for educators and students. For more information about SEEC, please visit [www.ndseec.com](http://www.ndseec.com).



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**MORE ABOUT DR. KEVIN FELDMAN:** Dr. Kevin Feldman is well-known as a co-author of *Scholastic's READ 180 Intervention Program*. His career in education spans more than 40 years. While Director of Reading and Intervention for Sonoma County Office of Education, he was responsible for developing, organizing, and monitoring programs related to PreK-12 literacy and the prevention and remediation of reading difficulties. To learn more about Dr. Feldman's work, you may view workshop videos on vimeo (<https://vimeo.com/album/2332570>).

**MORE ABOUT SUCCEED 2020:** Succeed 2020 began in 2012 with a \$25 million donation from Hess Corporation to increase college and career readiness among North Dakota students. Each year since then, North Dakota's Regional Education Associations have invested those dollars to build or enhance a series of systematic opportunities within K-12 education to better prepare students for their individual futures. For more information, visit [ndsucceed2020.org](http://ndsucceed2020.org).