

**Jesstina Bushery**

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*My passion is empowering individuals who comprise the education community with the necessary tools and strategies so that any and all of our young readers can reach their full literacy potential.*

Jesstina Bushery is a former Reading Recovery teacher in Pinellas County Schools, Florida, one of the largest school districts in America. Jesstina specializes in collaborating with other teachers to build a strong guided reading program using Dr. Jan Richardson's *The Next Step Forward in Guided Reading*. Jesstina is also the first instructional coach in Pinellas County to lead and implement the RISE intervention framework based on *The Next Step Forward in Reading Intervention: The RISE framework*. Due to the remarkable results at her school, Jesstina has since led district-wide professional development training on the RISE and RISE Up reading interventions. She provides a road map that ensures the fidelity of implementation of Dr. Richardson's theory and practice. She also provides virtual professional development focused on assisting teachers with small group targeted virtual instruction.

Jesstina has served as a Reading Recovery teacher, classroom teacher, reading teacher and a Response to Intervention (RTI) coach in multiple inner city Title 1 schools. She believes in the power of building relationships with principals and teachers through personalized professional development with the goal of improving student achievement and creating lifelong literacy learners. Jesstina's passion is empowering individuals with the necessary tools and strategies needed to allow young readers to reach their full literacy potential. With this approach, she builds capacity in schools by guiding and informing literacy leaders in her professional development sessions.

**Education:** Reading Recovery Teacher, National Louis University, Master's Degree in Educational Leadership, Bachelors of Arts, Elementary Education and Special Education.

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## Testimonials

*"It has been my great pleasure to work with Jesstina Bushery. Her knowledge of Jan's framework and her ability to coach teachers in implementing Jan's theory and practice translates to results. Jesstina has implemented the RISE intervention with great results in Pinellas County. She provides targeted, supportive and highly effective professional development for teachers."*

**Ellen Lewis – Literacy Consultant and coauthor with Jan Richardson of, *The Next Step Forward in Reading Intervention: The Rise Framework*, Scholastic, 2018.**

*"What is the best intervention we can provide for students? Put an amazing teacher in front of them. How do we build amazing teachers? We coach them. Mrs. Bushery provides expertise as she helps teachers identify their "current reality" and get a clear picture of where they need to grow. She guides the teacher as they set improvement goals that are straightforward, reachable, and focused on students. She also helps instructors understand and develop their desired practice or improvement strategy. Mrs. Bushery's way of work always involves modeling instruction, co-teaching, or observing other teachers. She helps the teacher integrate new strategies into their instruction, confirming progress along the way, "coaching in" when necessary, and always holding true to the vision. At the end of a coaching cycle, the teacher is left with the ability to adjust goals, make refinements in their practice, and plan next steps. It is always a great balance between advocacy and inquiry."*

**Principal Jessley Hathaway from Pinellas County Schools Florida**

*"Teachers across our district have learned about small group guided reading under the influence of Jesstina Bushery. While leading professional development, Jesstina masterfully combines years of experience with her very latest thinking on goal-directed, purpose-driven guided reading instruction – and she practices what she preaches. If teachers feel hopeless, lost, or uncertain about their practice, they need only watch Jesstina at work with a group of students and observe a simple, predictable routine embedded with targeted, specific prompting designed so that students read with more agency and independence. Jesstina has a laser-sharp focus on essential student-centered practice, giving teachers precisely what they need to get started trying guided reading – or refining it - in their own classroom right away. Most recently, Jesstina led an initiative to become one of the first schools in our district to implement the RISE Framework. She opened the doors of her school so that colleagues from nearby schools could observe the teachers leading the key parts of the interventions. Because of Jesstina's trailblazing efforts, students across our district are now reaping the benefits of this intense and fast-paced routine, accelerating progress and quickly catching up with their peers."*

**Holly Slaughter -Elementary Reading & Language Arts Specialist Pinellas County Schools**

*Mrs. Bushery's leadership, excitement for learning and reflection compares to none! When offered opportunities to teach the hardest to teach children in our district, she rises to the occasion. With careful observation and intentional teaching, she remains focused on every child's strength through every lesson. She carefully plans and effectively teaches children how to grow in literacy starting with what they know. Her energy is unmatched as she maintains a positive and engaging relationship with each student to build efficacy and success. Mrs. Bushery is an asset to every person's life she touches, especially the children who clearly need her most!*

**Kristie Beyer- Reading Recovery Teacher Leader**

*Jesstina Bushery provides clear, concise steps for implementing RISE and RISE UP. She has experience using the RISE framework with students so she can offer practical ideas to help teachers get started. In my district, Jesstina provided RISE and RISE UP professional development at the school and district level. She is easy to work with. She helped us create and implement a RISE summer training which included knowledge building sessions along with opportunities for participants to receive coaching as they worked with students. Teachers and administrators appreciated her knowledge and expertise.*

**Diana Porter, Instructional Staff Developer Pinellas County Schools, FL**

*Mrs. Bushery and I worked closely as she coached me through guided reading sessions. Our time was extremely beneficial as I feel more confident in my abilities to successfully implement Jan Richardson's Guided Reading lesson at all different levels of reading. She is kind, patient, and informative. From our coaching, I have learned to deepen my questioning, work on pacing in lessons, and effectively plan a guided reading session. Mrs. Bushery has extensive knowledge that aided me in creating guided reading groups who work well together and are focusing on the same comprehension strategies. We were able to collaborate and co-teach lessons that took me and my students to the next level! I am so grateful for her help and knowledge.*

**Riley Brown, 6th Grade teacher Dickinson East Elementary School, Hamtramck Michigan**