



every child  
is capable of  
greatness

# *Wit & Wisdom* Leaders Program Overview

## Purpose

The *Wit & Wisdom*® Leaders Program provides strategic and collaborative support across key school and district stakeholders, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and mindsets needed to successfully implement Great Minds® humanities curricula and resources.

Selecting high-quality instructional materials is a first step toward equitable instruction and improved student outcomes. Successful implementation of these materials depends on curriculum-based and role-embedded professional learning across multiple stakeholders. Additionally, external support can only take schools and districts so far; ultimately, teachers, coaches, and leaders inside a system determine the success of implementation.

Therefore, the *Wit & Wisdom* Leaders Program brings together these key stakeholders, in partnership with Great Minds, and builds all participants' capacity to ensure every student and educator can realize their greatness.

## Goals

To empower districts to plan for and lead successful implementation of Great Minds humanities curricula and resources by

- fostering understanding of how the learning design embodies best practices for effective English language arts instruction, equitably supporting students in building knowledge and in reading and communicating about complex texts,
- deepening understanding of effective implementation and the actions needed to support such implementation at the district and school level,
- developing educator skills in internalizing and facilitating professional learning,
- building skills in assessing student learning and using assessments to drive instruction,
- building collaboration across schools, and
- strategically planning to support and sustain success across phases of implementation in following years.

## Participants

### Participating District

- District Program Lead (chosen by a district team)
- *Wit & Wisdom* Leader
- *Wit & Wisdom* Leaders' Direct Supervisor (as needed)

### Great Minds

- Great Minds Program Director
- Lead Instructor

All participants collaborate to ensure engagement and application of the program in support of deepening successful implementation of Great Minds humanities curricula and resources.

## Description

In partnership with Great Minds and each other, district and school leaders determine how to select, leverage, and support educators as *Wit & Wisdom* leaders to build and sustain strong implementation through strategic development and execution of their literacy vision.

Through a coherent year-long course of study, the *Wit & Wisdom* leaders—teacher—leaders and coaches who are positioned to play a vital role in successful implementation—deepen their curriculum expertise and their understanding of the phases of implementation, building capacity to instruct both students and colleagues.

## Components

- Orientation sessions
- Synchronous professional learning
- Asynchronous, on-demand professional learning
- Performance-based assessments of curriculum knowledge and implementation support at the beginning, middle, and end of the program
- Ongoing implementation support through coaching meetings, technology platform access, and a professional learning network
- Access to professional learning materials and resources

District-specific programs include additional programming and support.

## Program Details

### Participants

<b>Participating District</b>		
Great Minds recommends and selects districts that have demonstrated a commitment to the program partnership and meet a core set of criteria.		
<b>District Program Lead</b>	<b><i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> Leader</b>	<b>Direct Supervisor</b>
<p>A district program lead is a district instructional leader who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• drives literacy implementation,</li> <li>• can adjust plans, structures, etc., as needed to enable success of both the program and curriculum implementation,</li> <li>• actively engages with direct supervisors to support <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> leaders, and</li> <li>• serves as the contact between Great Minds and the district throughout the program.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> leaders are instructional coaches or other literacy leaders who are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• respected Grades K–8 <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> educators and</li> <li>• able to influence the effectiveness of implementation outside of a single classroom.</li> </ul>	<p>If the <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> leader participant is in a school-level role, their direct supervisor is a required participant in the program. The direct supervisor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• offers support to the <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> leader participant and</li> <li>• supports program implementation.</li> </ul> <p>The direct supervisor is not required to participate in all program components.</p>

<b>Great Minds</b>	
<b>Great Minds Program Director</b>	<b>Lead Instructor</b>
<p>The program director is a Great Minds staff member who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• leads the program,</li> <li>• supports Great Minds humanities curricula and resource implementation, and</li> <li>• serves as the contact for district program leads.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead instructors are Great Minds staff members who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• facilitate <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> leaders' participation in the program,</li> <li>• support Great Minds humanities curricula and resource implementation, and</li> <li>• serve as the contact for <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> leaders.</li> </ul>

### Components

	<b>Description and Participants</b>
Orientation Sessions	<p><b>District Program Lead</b> Orientation includes planning with the Great Minds program director to lay the groundwork for a successful partnership.</p> <p><b><i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> Leaders</b> The Great Minds team facilitates introductions, reviews program details and logistics, and introduces the course's technology platforms.</p> <p><b>Direct Supervisor (as needed)</b> The Great Minds lead instructor and the district program lead review the program's timeline, coursework, roles, and expectations.</p>
Synchronous Professional Learning	<p><i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> leaders and the district program lead engage in various professional learning experiences to deepen content expertise and prepare for success on program assessments. Direct supervisors attend some sessions. District program leads also participate in a professional learning network with program leads from other participating districts.</p>
Asynchronous On-Demand Professional Learning	<p>Between professional learning sessions, participants independently complete a series of tasks to further their understanding of the curriculum and develop their instructional skills. <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> leaders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engage in asynchronous learning to deepen their understanding of the curriculum and develop their skills tied to the program's performance-based assessments and</li> <li>• participate in monthly online discussions that foster collaboration and critical thinking tied to classroom implementation and implementation success.</li> </ul> <p>All participants receive monthly communications highlighting additional resources that support implementation success.</p>
Performance-Based Assessments	<p><i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> leaders demonstrate their growing understanding of and skills in implementing Great Minds humanities curricula and resources, both in the classroom and in supporting their colleagues, through an assessment series.</p>
Ongoing Implementation Support	<p><i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> leaders attend one-on-one or small group coaching meetings related to assessments, feedback, or implementation support.</p>
Access to Materials and Resources	<p>Great Minds provides select materials and resources for <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> leaders to use in their school and district.</p>