

## What is

# PEER COACHING

The Peer Coaching Program, supported by Microsoft Corporation, is a proven methodology for training teacher leaders to serve as peer coaches for their colleagues. Many educators will attest to the transformative power of peer coaching and its ability to alter practices and beliefs. Peer coaching is a practical way to deliver the ongoing, consistent support essential to assist teachers to improve their craft and increase student achievement. Peer coaches help other colleagues in their schools integrate technology into classroom learning activities and improve lesson design by incorporating engaging strategies such as project-based learning.

The program was developed at the Puget Sound Center as part of a U.S. Department of Education grant in 2002. Then in 2004 Microsoft licensed the curriculum making it the first of their Partners in Learning leadership programs. The Peer Coaching Team has trained educators in 49 countries and 10 U.S. states. Participants in this training have aligned the Peer Coaching Program with local goals and initiatives to assure successful implementation. Today, the Peer Coaching Team from Peer-Ed continues to provide the same high quality training and support the program has provided since its inception.



*Building a global community where teachers work side-by-side to transform teaching and learning.*

## Why should I use Peer Coaching in my school?



When teachers are asked who they look to for guidance and training on how to use technology in their classrooms the vast majority of them say they would look to another teacher in their school. Why? They trust their peers and they know that help from this trusted source is there when they need it.

Research suggests that only 15-20% of teachers integrate technology skills into their teaching. There are several reasons for this. Technology skills are often taught to teachers without a classroom-integration context. Insufficient post-training support, from a community of learners and from local administrators, may further undermine effective technology integration.

The goal of Peer Coaching is to help schools to create systemic capacity to provide professional development by promoting the participation of school administrators as well as coaches and providing them with an ongoing online community to continue learning long after the initial training. In a time of budget cuts and department reorganizations, schools are challenged to do more with less. Peer Coaching provides effective, affordable teacher professional development.