

REGION 5 UPDATE

Spring 2025

The **Region 5 Coaches Network**, launched in January 2025, was developed out of our desire to create a PLC designed specifically for our Region 5 instructional coaches. Recognizing how their roles are unique and key to school improvement and turnaround, our Coaches Network was designed to provide targeted support, foster collaboration, and drive alignment between coaching practice and district priorities.

Through monthly sessions, coaches have engaged in professional learning cycles, cross-content collaboration, and focused planning aligned to HQIM, PLC implementation, and instructional equity. This work directly supports our Region 5 Strategic Plan priority of **High Academic Expectations**, which calls for every student to be held to rigorous academic standards through strong instructional practices and high-quality coaching support.

Anitra Selmon, our instructional coach from **Maynard Elementary**, emphasized, “The opportunity to network and work through school-based problems with coaches within the network was invaluable. I also gained a lot of resources from the math and science department around PLC and coaching feedback.”

Jodie Baker-Strother, our instructional coach from **Green Magnet Academy**, stated, “I appreciate this opportunity to meet with district leads and other coaches to improve my instructional practices.”

The Region 5 Coaches Network not only supports coaches as instructional leaders but also builds their capacity to directly impact student achievement by ensuring every coach is equipped to support the right teachers with the right strategies at the right time.

Dr. Dexter Murphy
Region 5 Director



Sallee Reynolds
Region 5 Supervisor



HIGH ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

This school year, Region 5 has focused on strengthening High Academic Expectations through data-informed small group instruction. In grades K-2, teachers are leading daily small group lessons, using Quick Phonics Assessments and Quick Spelling Assessments (QPA/QSA) diagnostics to identify student learning targets and group students accordingly.

Educators are also implementing and combining small group routines to better meet students' needs and support their progression toward mastery. The success of this practice in K-2 has led to its expansion to grades 3-5 at Lonsdale and Christenberry, with Christenberry also extending the work into math instruction.

Additionally, principals have received individualized coaching to enhance Professional Learning Community (PLC) development. These coaching efforts include personalized support strategies aimed at improving teacher recruitment and retention.



RECRUIT & RETAIN ELITE EDUCATORS

Region 5 has seen major staffing successes heading into the 2025–26 school year. Four schools—Whittle Springs, Christenberry, Maynard, and Belle Morris—are already fully staffed in certified positions, with Whittle Springs fully staffed in both certified and classified roles. Additionally, five more schools have just one certified opening, and the region overall has only 14 certified positions remaining. When factoring in positions principals plan to fill through ESS, all Region 5 schools are staffed at 90% or higher.

Looking ahead, professional development opportunities this summer will support continued growth, with sessions planned for ELL, Elementary ELA, Secondary ELA, and Secondary Math.

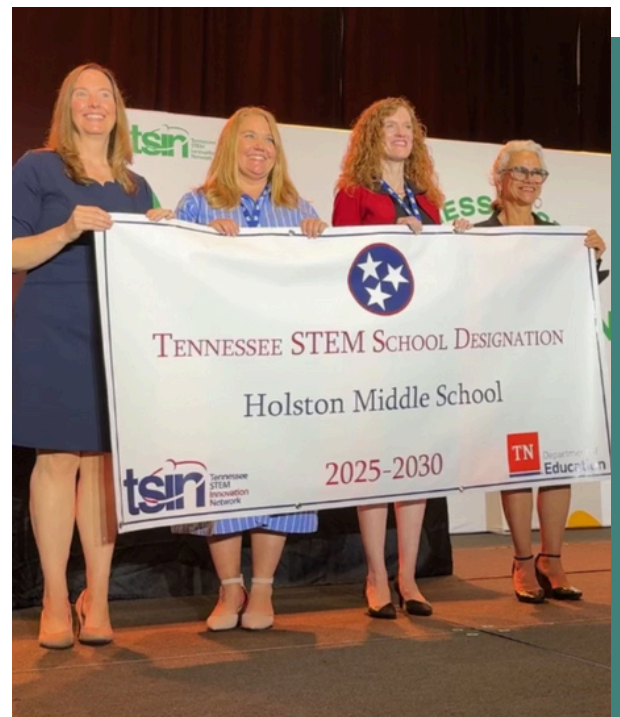


COLLEGE & CAREER PATHWAYS

Region 5 schools—Sarah Moore Greene Magnet Academy, Vine Middle Magnet, and Austin-East Magnet High School—are making strong progress toward becoming an International Baccalaureate (IB) Continuum. Each school is officially in IB candidacy: PYP at Sarah Moore Greene, MYP at Vine, and both MYP and CP at Austin-East. IB Coordinators have been identified for each site, with MYP Coordinators beginning training in April and principals set to start official IB training in May. This work reflects Region 5's deep commitment to equity, rigor, and personal development through globally recognized learning programs.

Holston Middle reached a major milestone as the first middle school in the district to earn official STEM designation. To support this, Holston implemented a sustainability plan, formed a STEM leadership team with community partners, hosted a school-wide design thinking challenge, and organized a Community STEM Night. These initiatives ensure STEM learning is relevant, engaging, and aligned with student needs.

Region 5 high schools continue making strides in college and career readiness. Fulton High is preparing to pursue Model Academy designation through the National Career Academy Coalition, completing a rubric review and gap analysis with Ford NGL Coaches. Austin-East is pursuing IB authorization for the Career-related Programme, with a coordinator in place, pathway alignment with state requirements, and teacher training scheduled for Fall 2025.



MEETING WHOLE-CHILD NEEDS

Region 5 is leading the way in launching the KCS Instructional Practice Guide (IPG) for Culture of Learning—an intentional tool designed to support strong school culture through the TIGER rubric areas of environment, expectations, student behavior, and respectful interactions. This guide serves as a companion to the IPG walkthrough process, giving administrators a focused lens to provide targeted feedback and support in building positive, productive classrooms.

Aligned with best practices for Tier 1 behavioral support, the Culture of Learning guide is being piloted in Region 5 this year, with plans for district-wide implementation in the upcoming school year. By focusing on clear expectations and consistent support, this tool is helping schools create learning environments where every student can thrive.

In addition, all Region 5 schools are undergoing a comprehensive school discipline analysis. This process includes reviewing demographics, behavioral data, current support structures, and disciplinary practices to identify areas of strength and growth. The goal is to ensure consistent expectations, aligned interventions, and clearly communicated consequences across all schools. Findings from this analysis will inform actionable plans to strengthen school discipline and will be expanded to other regions next year.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Region 5 Community Schools continue to make a powerful impact, supporting 6,240 students and their families across 16 schools in underserved areas. This year's first-ever Week of Caring connected 20 companies and 100+ volunteers to complete service projects, gather supplies, and assemble wellness kits for teachers. At Maynard Elementary, a community computer class helped families gain digital literacy and purchase discounted Chromebooks.

STEM learning was brought to life through a traveling science fair in partnership with Oak Ridge National Laboratory, while a weekly fresh produce distribution with CAC Beardsley Community Farm reached 279 families. One standout example of this work is Spring Hill Elementary, where a recent visit by the Community Schools Steering Committee highlighted the strong collaboration between Principal Tiffany Watkins and Site Coordinator Gary Miller.

From parent-led behavior programs to year-round support from local faith partners, Spring Hill showcases the power of partnership. Similar success stories are unfolding at all 10 Region 5 Community Schools.

