

Dr. Amanda Southerland, Ed.D.

Educational Leadership • School Improvement • Improvement Science

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), School Improvement | University of Texas at Tyler | 2026
 - o Dissertation: Improving the Implementation of RTI Through Structured PLCs: An Improvement Science Study
- Master of Education (M.Ed.), Curriculum & Instruction | Texas A&M University at Commerce | 2021
- Bachelor of Science, Interdisciplinary Studies | Texas A&M University at Commerce | 2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- School Improvement
- Improvement Science
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- RTI/MTSS
- Teacher Collaboration
- Educational Leadership
- Mathematics Education
- Educational Policy

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Designed and conducted a mixed-methods improvement science dissertation
- Collected and analyzed quantitative and qualitative data
- Applied thematic coding and statistical analyses
- Partnered with campus leaders to implement and evaluate instructional improvement
- Utilized PDSA cycles, root causes analysis and continuous improvement methods

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Led PLCs focused on collaborative planning and data analysis
- Developed TEKS-aligned assessments and instructional resources
- Used student achievement data to drive instructional and intervention decisions
- Supported RTI implementation through Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 instructional planning
- Collaborated with district curriculum leaders on vertical alignment

- Mentored new teachers and teacher candidates
- Served on campus and district leadership and improvement teams
- Maintained an average TTESS evaluation score of 4.5 over the past three years
- Recipient of Campus and District Teacher of the Year honors
- TEA designated Master teacher in Texas

TEACHER EXPERIENCE K-12

- 5th Grade Mathematics
- 6th Grade Mathematics
- Mathematics Intervention
- Special Education
- Gifted and Talented
- RTI Instruction

TEACHER EXPERIENCE HIGHER EDUCATION

- EDUC 5315: School Policies - University of Texas at Tyler (Fall 2026)
- EDUC 5372: Models of Teaching and Assessment - University of Texas at Tyler (Fall 2026)

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

- PLC Leader
- Grade Level Chair
- Campus Leadership Team
- District Leadership Team
- Campus Improvement Team
- District Improvement Team
- Teacher Mentor
- Capturing Kids' Hearts Campus Leader

PRESENTATIONS

- Southerland, A. (2026). *Improving RTI implementation through structured professional learning communities: Dissertation defense* [Doctoral dissertation defense]. University of Texas at Tyler.
- Southerland, A. (2025). *Dissertation Evaluation Phase* [Conference presentation]. Texas School Improvement Conference, University of Texas at Tyler, Tyler, TX.
- Southerland, A. (2024). *Dissertation Proposal* [Conference presentation]. Texas School Improvement Conference, University of Texas at Tyler, Tyler, TX.

PUBLICATIONS

- Southerland, Amanda, "IMPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION THROUGH STRUCTURED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIIES" (2026). Education Theses and Dissertations. Paper 44.
<http://hdl.handle.net/10950/5105>

HONORS & AWARDS

- District Teacher of the Year
- Campus Teacher of the Year
- Texas Master Teacher Designation from the Texas