



Stefan Bean, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

OC Literacy & Language



April 2026 Newsletter

April encourages us to honor the impactful literacy practices occurring in classrooms daily. As part of National Poetry Month, we continue to celebrate our multilingual learners and champion inclusive practices. From the narratives students share to the voices they uncover, this month showcases the various ways reading, writing, speaking, and listening influence identity, foster community, and broaden understanding. As you continue to support curious and skilled readers and writers, April presents valuable opportunities to amplify student voices, explore diverse viewpoints, and maintain the joy of literacy at the heart of your teaching.

Dates to Note:

National Poetry Month

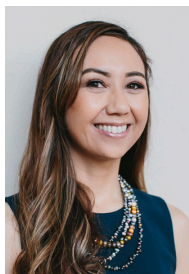
- April 1 - April Fools' Day (proceed with caution)
- April 2 - World Autism Awareness Day
- April 4 - School Librarian Day
- April 11 - National Pet Day
- April 19-25 National Library Week
- April 22 - Earth Day
- April 23 - World Book Day / Shakespeare's Birthday



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Literacy & Language
bit.ly/OCDE_LiteracyLanguage

Upcoming Literacy Offerings



Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services
Curriculum, Instruction and Academic Enrichment Unit

READING DIFFICULTIES RISK SCREENER (RDRS) Implementation Workshop

Join leaders from across Orange County districts for an in-person working session focused on reflecting on this year's RDRS implementation and shaping of what comes next.



What to expect:

- Guided reflection using a structured reflection tool
- Discussions about successes, challenges, and lessons learned
- Cross-district idea sharing and problem solving targeted resources
- Dedicated time to begin planning for next year's RDRS implementation

Audience: District & Site Leaders, LEIS, Coordinators, ICAs, and anyone involved in RDRS planning

Date and Time: **NO COST**
April 14, 2026
12:45 - 3:30 p.m.
Register at <https://forms.office.com/r/276322>
or email OCDE



OCDE 200 E. Rialto Drive
Suite 100, Room 101-3
Costa Mesa, CA

CA NTES INCLUDES Academic Instruction
SCAF Priority, High Outcomes, High Achievement

For content questions, contact Amber Fleming (amber.fleming@ocde.us)
For registration questions, contact Casey Arita (casey.arita@ocde.us)



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Reading Difficulties Risk Screener (RDRS) Implementation Workshop

April 14, 2026 | 12:45-3:30 p.m.

Register [here](#)

Join leaders from across Orange County districts for an in-person working session focused on reflecting on this year's RDRS implementation and shaping of what comes next.

Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services
Curriculum, Instruction and Academic Enrichment Unit

LETRS® TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Empowering Educators with the Science of Reading



WHAT IS LETRS®?

Lexia's LETRS® (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) is the gold standard in evidence-based literacy professional development. It gives teachers the deep knowledge and tools they need to understand how students learn to read—and what to do when they struggle. Through the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE), districts now have the opportunity to join regional LETRS® cohorts starting August 2026.

WHY SHOULD DISTRICTS JOIN?

- **Support Science of Reading Skills:** Build teacher expertise aligned with California's literacy priorities, district guidelines, and the state's new **Bill of Reading (SB 505)** Science.
- **Comprehensive & Sustainable:** Move from one-day trainings, LETRS® builds long-term capacity through a blend of in-person workshops, online modules, and Bridge-to-Practice assignments over 2 years.
- **Ready for Small, Medium, and Large Districts or Individual Teachers:** Ready for a district-wide LETRS® rollout or individual teachers, OCDE allows you to send a small group of teachers or coordinators to a program regional cohort class for smaller systems, adding to the program or teachers wanting to deepen their skills.
- **Education can earn 12 units of continuing education credits.**

• **OCDE member benefits:** We coordinate with Lexia, host trainings, manage participant access, and provide technical assistance—reducing the in-person district cost.

Track	Duration	Format	Price (Per Person)	Cohort Size
LETRS® (Inf Ed)	2 years	In-person	\$1,200 - \$1600	40

*Pricing includes training, modules, and materials. Per person cost assumes full cohorts and may increase slightly with smaller groups.

Click [here](#) to fill out the interest form.

8 training days and assignments over 2 years

Dates: Starting August 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Location: OCDE Building D

READY TO LEARN MORE?

[LETRS® Digital Resource Room](#)
[LETRS® Overview Video](#)

For more information, contact Amber Fleming (amber.fleming@ocde.us)

4402026

LETRS® Training at OCDE

Starts August 2026

Fill out interest form [here](#)

Lexia's LETRS® (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) is the gold standard in evidence-based literacy professional development. It gives teachers the deep knowledge and tools they need to understand how students learn to read—and what to do when they struggle. Through the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE), districts now have the opportunity to join regional LETRS® cohorts starting August 2026.

Please click on the link below to see our professional development trainings

2025-26 Literacy and Language Calendar

View all flyers and resources [here](#)

Save the Date



Orange County Department of Education
Educational Services Division
Curriculum, Instruction & Academic
Enrichment Unit



2026 AP IN THE OC

Virtual Advanced
Placement Summer
Institute for Current and
Future AP and Pre-AP
Teachers

JULY 20-23, 2026 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
JULY 24, 2026 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Join the AP in the OC Summer Institute - a dynamic virtual training for new and seasoned AP educators. Our 30-hour hybrid (synchronous & asynchronous) professional learning imparts essential skills for Advanced Placement instruction, covering AP content intricacies, effective organization techniques, and modern teaching methods. Leave with renewed enthusiasm, fresh insights, and abundant resources to enhance your classroom, and provide students an exceptional AP education.

Content questions and general inquiries:
apintheoc@ocdeus (714) 966-4157

AP SUBJECTS OFFERED

- Biology
- Computer Science Principles
- English Language & Composition
- English Literature & Composition
- Environmental Science
- Government & Politics - U.S.
- Physics 1
- Psychology
- Spanish Language & Culture
- Statistics
- U.S. History

\$650 - Special early bird pricing until May 15, 2026
\$700 - Full institute rate begins May 16, 2026
\$799 - Late registration rate begins July 12, 2026
Includes College Board materials

AP Capstone, through AP Seminar and AP Research, empowers teachers to go beyond content delivery by fostering critical thinking, inquiry, and academic discourse. In AP Seminar, students examine real-world issues from multiple perspectives, building skills in discussion, collaboration, and argumentation. AP Research involves year-long, independent projects guided by teachers, culminating in a scholarly paper and presentation. These courses support innovative, skills-based instruction and help develop highly valued, transferable skills.

AP CAPSTONE SUBJECTS OFFERED

- Research
- Seminar
- Seminar ELA

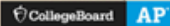
\$799 - Full Institute rate

REGISTRATION & EVENT DETAILS:

<https://tinyurl.com/APintheOC2026>



This AP Summer Institute
is endorsed by:



LEXIA LEARNING PRESENTS

HOPEVILLE: HOW TO WIN THE READING WARS



THURSDAY
APRIL 23RD | 4 PM

AT THE FRIDA CINEMA

305 E. 4TH STREET SUITE 100. SANTA ANA, CA 92701

3:45-4:30 Arrivals/Networking | 4:30-5:00 Panel Discussion | 5:00-7:00 Movie Screening

LIGHT DINNER AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

RSVP TO:
JENNA.HIBBARD@LEXIALEARNING.COM
OPEN TO ALL OC EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

LITERACY CONFERENCE

The Art and Science of
Writing Across the
Content Areas

Explore the science of writing instruction and the art of teaching by exploring genre-based and cross-disciplinary writing practices that help students become flexible writers.

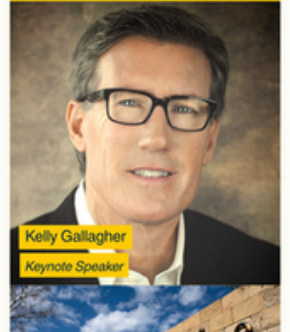
SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY
DEC 4, 2026

UC IRVINE STUDENT CENTER

ENGAGING WORKSHOPS

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

ENHANCE YOUR PEDAGOGY



Kelly Gallagher
Keynote Speaker

5th Annual
S.T.E.A.M. RACE TO SPACE
Reading Challenge

Read books. Earn rewards. Unlock bonus prizes. Then celebrate together at our giant Splashdown event!
Open to K-12th grade students

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Registration Opens: September 4 | Reading Challenge: September 25 - October 16
Splashdown Celebration: November 14

Explore
Science • Technology • Engineering • Arts • Math
Every book moves you closer to prizes!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:
Learn More
ReadStem.org

QR code for registration

Save the Date



P-3

Literacy Progression: Strong Readers are Built Across Years, Not Grades

Integrated Developmental Inclusive

Language Development

How are we intentionally building **vocabulary, academic language** and **sentence structure** from TK to grade 3?

Meaning Making

How are students **deepening understanding** and **interpreting texts and ideas** each year from TK to grade 3?

Effective Expression

How are students build expressive language: **speaking, writing,** and **communicating thinking** from TK to grade 3?

Foundational Skills

How are foundational skills of **print concepts, phonological awareness, phonics** and **fluency** intentionally sequenced and built from TK to grade 3?

Meaningful Interactions Content-Rich Experiences Teach Skills Explicitly

Ready to Dive Deeper?
Read Full Framework

Leadership Session
July 24, 2026
8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
200 Kalmus Dr. Costa Mesa 92626

Build Knowledge
Develop a shared understanding of the P-3 Learning Progression

Build Capacity
Learn to use vertical alignment tools, slides, and collaborative protocols

Build a Plan
Leave with an implementation roadmap for your site

Register Here



Orange County Department of Education
Educational Services Division
Curriculum, Instruction and Academic Enrichment Unit

PROJECT GLAD®
National Training Center

OCDE Project GLAD® Spring Institute 2026 ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

Thursday, April 23, 2026 | Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa

Refocus, Refresh, and Reignite Your Instructional Journey

The OCDE Project GLAD® Spring Institute 2026: Roadmap to Success is a dynamic, one-day learning experience designed to inspire and equip educators with powerful strategies to support multilingual learners.

Through engaging, interactive sessions led by expert trainers, participants will explore practical tools that strengthen language development, elevate student engagement, and promote equitable, language-rich classrooms.

Whether you're new to Project GLAD® or a seasoned practitioner, this Institute offers an opportunity to connect, reflect, and chart a clear path toward meaningful learning and student success.

Date & Time:
Thursday, April 23, 2026 | 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Location:
Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa
3050 Bristol St., Costa Mesa, California, 92626

Registration Details:

- Early Bird: \$325 (Now - January 31, 2026)
- Regular Registration: \$400 (February 1 - April 15, 2026)
- Deadline: April 15, 2026

Registration Includes:

- Full-day sessions and workshops
- Breakfast and lunch
- Complimentary parking
- Digital access to session resources

<https://link.ocde.us/SpringintoProjectGLAD>

Intended Audience: educators, coaches, and administrators in the Preschool-12 system

For content questions, please contact OCDE Project GLAD® National Training Center at ProjectGLAD@ocde.us
For registration questions, please contact Joanna Robold at JoannaRobold@ocde.us

LCAP Priorities: Conditions of Learning - Basic Services - Special Population
CAMTSS: Whole Child-Inclusive Transformative | Social-Emotional Instruction | Mental Health Support

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**Refocus
Refresh
Reignite**

Register



ONE COUNTY, ONE BOOK

APRIL 2026 - JUNE 2026



A community reading program centered around the Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *James*, by Percival Everett. From April through June, readers of all ages are invited to celebrate *James* through an exciting lineup of author talks, engaging cultural presentations, and lively book club discussions - all designed to bring the story, and our community, together!

<https://ocpl.org/one-county-one-book-2026>



*Check out all of Teaching Books'
Timely Topic Resources*



National Poetry Month



Earth Day April 22nd



**Find Your Joy
National Library Week
April 19-25**

Click [here](#) to view the resources folder

Resources

Need information about the Screener for Risk of Reading Difficulties? Check out the [OCDE Literacy and Language Webpage](#) for additional information and updates.

Check out the latest [CDE Literacy Newsletter](#) for information on Statewide Literacy

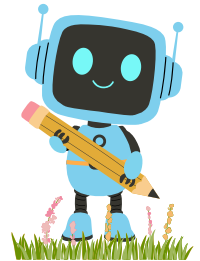
CDE has released [Literacy Content Blocks](#) for TK-5. The Literacy Content Blocks are guide for effective literacy instruction by applying the ELA/ELD Framework.

Check out this amazing resource for [Integrated ELD Strategies](#)



Tech Corner

April is Poetry Month with a techy remix! Get students' creative juices flowing with a dash of AI magic. Ask the AI to whip up a poem about something mundane—like school lunch—but throw in a twist with styles like Shakespearean elegance, rap swagger, or haiku simplicity. Got a student poem? Give it a personality makeover—make it funny, dramatic, or mysterious! Create some edgy poetry prompts fit for your class, or turn a poem into a multilingual marvel with highlighted vocab. It's all about minimal effort, maximum fun, and a fresh way to jazz up the language game!



Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services

To subscribe to our newsletter scan the QR code below



@OCDELitLang