



Stefan Bean, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

OC Literacy & Language

December 2025 Newsletter

Happy December, OC Educators!

As we head into the bustling holiday season, let's take a moment to celebrate the multicultural magic that makes our Orange County classrooms shine. This month is packed with diverse festivities—from the lighting of the Hanukkah menorah and the community spirit of Las Posadas, to the reflection of Kwanzaa and the joy of Christmas. Each of these traditions offers endless opportunities to connect literacy with culture, helping our students see themselves and their neighbors in the stories we share. Here's to finishing the semester strong, celebrating our students' unique heritages, and enjoying a well-deserved Winter Break.

December Holidays & Observances

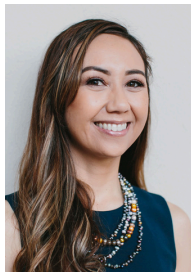
- Bodhi Day: Dec 8
- Las Posadas: Dec 16-24
- Winter Solstice: Dec 21
- Hanukkah: Dec 25 – Jan 2
- Christmas: Dec 25
- Kwanzaa: Dec 26 – Jan 1



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Upcoming Literacy Offerings

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

From Screening to Action: A Three-Part Learning Series for Site Leaders

California has introduced a new Risk of Reading Difficulties Screener for grades K-2. As the team, administrators play a critical role in ensuring that implementation is smooth, data is meaningful, and that data truly supports students. This three-part virtual professional learning series will equip administrators with the knowledge, tools, and strategies to lead screening efforts confidently and effectively. Each session will focus on a key phase of the screening process, with time built in for Q&A and collaboration.

Topics include:

- Understanding the legislation
- Communicating and investing in families
- Screening multilingual and emergent dual learners with an EP or 504
- Valid integration
- Analyzing data
- Instructional response

Registration: 1/11/25, 1/29/25, 1/30/25
11:30 - 4:30 p.m.
VIRTUAL
FREE
Register at <http://ocde.k12or.gov/1288-272349> or scan the QR code

Audience: Elementary Site Principals & Leaders
ICAP: Conditions of Learning Implementation of Standards
MTSS: Inclusive Academic Instruction

For content questions, contact Amber Fleming-Monroe at amfleming@ocde.k12or.gov
For registration questions, contact Casey Allen at calen@ocde.k12or.gov



Reading Screener for Site Leaders

December 9, 2025, January 13, 2026, February 11, 2026 | 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Register [here](#)

California has launched a new K-2 Risk of Reading Difficulties Screener, and site administrators play a critical role in its successful implementation. This three-part virtual learning series will provide administrators with the knowledge, tools, and strategies to lead screening efforts with confidence. Each session will focus on a key phase of the process, from understanding the legislation to using data for instructional response. Topics include family communication, screening multilingual learners and students with IEPs or 504 plans, and integrating results within the MTSS framework.

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

ELEMENTARY COMPREHENSIVE ELD: INTEGRATED AND DESIGNATED STRATEGIES

Target Audience:
K-4 Induction Teachers and Mentors

VIRTUAL
1/14/26, 2/11/26
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
FREE
Registration link: <http://ocde.k12or.gov/1288-261161> or scan the QR code

Join us for a two-part Zoom series!
This no-cost professional development is designed for induction teachers, with or without their mentors. Each session will explore English language development (ELD) strategies. The first session will focus on integrated ELD strategies and the second session will focus on designated ELD strategies. Let's build our instructional toolbox so all students thrive!

ICAP: Conditions of Learning Implementation of Standards
MTSS: Inclusive Academic and Behavioral Instruction

For content questions, contact Casey Allen at calen@ocde.k12or.gov
For registration questions, contact Casey Allen at calen@ocde.k12or.gov



Elementary Comprehensive ELD: Integrated and Designated Strategies

January 14 & February 11, 2026 | 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Register [here](#)

Join us for a two-part Zoom series! This no-cost professional development is designed for induction teachers, with or without their mentors. Each session will explore English language development (ELD) strategies. The first session will focus on integrated ELD strategies and the second session will focus on designated ELD strategies. Let's build our instructional toolbox so all students thrive!

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

English Learner Roadmap Toolkit: Administrator Learning Series

This dynamic leadership series equips district and site administrators with tools, strategies, and a supportive network to lead effective, equity-centered programs for Multilingual Learners. Participants engage deeply with each principle of the English Learner Roadmap, exploring how to implement transformative, research-based practices through collaborative sessions, planning activities, and inter-session support.

- Module 1: Orientation to the EL Roadmap, leading change, and practical planning
- Module 2: Focused sessions on each EL Roadmap principle, providing knowledge, tools, resources, leading, strategic strategies, observation tools, research-based practices, and action planning
- Inter-module Support: Guidance, tools, and activities for growth, including support for inquiry, observation tools, and activities to aid diagnosis and implementation

Audience: District Leaders, Coaches/TOSAs, & Site Administrators
ICAP: Implementation of State Standards
CA MTSS: Inclusive Academic Instruction - Strong Student Support Teams

For content questions, contact Amber Fleming-Monroe at amfleming@ocde.k12or.gov or Casey Allen at calen@ocde.k12or.gov
For registration questions, contact Casey Allen at calen@ocde.k12or.gov

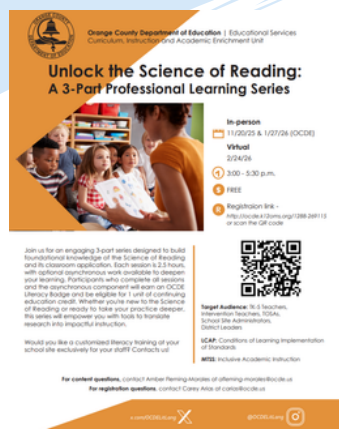


English Learner Roadmap Toolkit: Administrator Learning Series

January 15 & 29, February 26, and March 4, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Register [here](#)

This dynamic leadership series equips district and site administrators with tools, strategies, and a supportive network to lead effective, equity-centered programs for Multilingual Learners. Participants engage deeply with each principle of the English Learner Roadmap, exploring how to implement transformative, research-based practices through collaborative sessions, planning activities, and inter-session support.

Upcoming Literacy Offerings

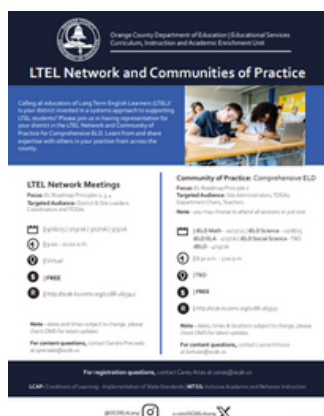


Unlock the Science of Reading

January 27, February 27, 2026 | 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Register [here](https://www.ocde.net/1388289112)

Join us for an engaging 2-part series designed to build foundational knowledge of the Science of Reading and its classroom application. Each session is 2.5 hours, with optional asynchronous work available to deepen your learning. Participants who complete all sessions and the asynchronous component will earn an OCDE Literacy Badge and be eligible for 1 unit of continuing education credit. Whether you're new to the Science of Reading or ready to take your practice deeper, this series will empower you with tools to translate research into impactful instruction.



Community of Practice: Comprehensive ELD

January 27 & April 27, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Register [here](https://www.ocde.net/1388289112)

Calling all LTEL educators! Is your district invested in a systems approach to supporting LTEL students? Please join us in having representation for your district in the LTEL Network and Community of Practice for Comprehensive ELD. Learn from and share expertise with others in your position from across the county.



Bridging Screening to Support

March 17, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Register [here](https://www.ocde.net/1388289112)


After administering the California Risk of Reading Difficulty Screener, learn how to use your data to implement Tier 1 and Tier 2 strategies for targeted whole and small group instruction to support at-risk students' foundational reading needs. Participants will: understand how to interpret screening results, learn Tier 1 differentiation strategies, explore Tier 2 interventions for students, and walk away with practical tools and planning templates. \$25 per person, includes lunch and materials.

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

2025-26 Literacy and Language Calendar

View all flyers and resources [here](https://www.ocde.net/1388289112)


Save the Date



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

ROOTS TO READINESS

English Learner Toolkit for
Early Learning TK-2nd



This series delves into developmentally appropriate, culturally responsive, and linguistically supportive early educational approaches. It emphasizes using the California Master Plan for Early Learning and Care and the California English Learner Roadmap. You'll receive guidance on how to use the early education toolkit to meet the needs of multilingual learners in TK-2nd at your local site.

Location:
Orange County Department of Education
200 Kalmus Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
In-Person

Dates:
January 28, 2026
February 11, 2026
February 19, 2026

Time:
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.


Cost: \$300 per person
\$1,000 per district teams of 4

Materials included -
Californians Together: Preschool/TK Toolkit for English Learner Roadmap

Aligns with CA EL Roadmap Principle 2:
Intellectual Quality of Instruction and Meaningful Access

Intended audience: TK-2nd teachers, TOSAs, coordinators and coaches

Register



Registration Information: Stephanie Ohanesian, sohanesian@ocde.us
Content Information: Catalina Sanchez, csanchez@ocde.us

LCAP Buckets & Priorities: Conditions of Learning; Implementation of State Standards - Pupil Outcomes: Pupil Achievement
CA MTSS Domain: Whole Child: Integrated Supports - Organizational Structure

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

TEACHERS & AI WEBINAR SERIES

Empowering Educators with Artificial Intelligence to Transform Pedagogy

Join us for a monthly webinar series designed to help TK-12 teachers, instructional coaches, and educators interested in AI integration learn how to incorporate AI tools to enhance instructional planning, personalize learning, and spark creativity in the classroom. Each session will explore practical strategies, tools, and ethical considerations for leveraging AI to improve pedagogy.

October 28, 2025
November 18, 2025
December 16, 2025
January 27, 2026
February 17, 2026
March 24, 2026
April 28, 2026

Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Location: Virtual - Zoom
Cost: Free

REGISTER HERE

Contact Wes Kriesel for Content Questions:
E: wkriesel@ocde.us | Ph: 714-966-4151


Contact Gabby Alvarez for Registration Questions:
E: galvarez@ocde.us | Ph: 714-966-4228

LCAP Priority: Pupil Outcomes: Pupil Achievement
CA MTSS Domain & Feature: Whole Child - Inclusive Academic Instruction

4059070325

CA Project ARISE Literacy Workshop Series 25-26

SUPPORTING ADOLESCENT LITERACY & EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS



Are you looking to better understand the unique developmental considerations for budding readers in their teen years?

Project ARISE in partnership with the The Center for Whole-Child Education, is offering this **virtual series of FREE workshops** designed to help educators, leaders, and community school teams deepen their understanding of adolescent literacy development.

Center for Whole-Child Education
ASU Teachers College

REGISTER FOR THESE WORKSHOPS **HERE**

ADOLESCENT LITERACY 101
Explore the unique developmental considerations for adolescent readers through the lens of neurodevelopment, psychology, and science of reading. Learn effective strategies to holistically support teen literacy growth in your context.

Mondays, 3:30 - 4:45
Attend the Date Designed for You:
• **Sept. 29** for educators & leaders
• **Oct. 6** for community school





ADOLESCENT LITERACY: THE ROLE OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS
Explore the science behind how adolescents learn and grow, with a focus on literacy development and critical role of executive functions. Gain practical strategies to create supportive environments where young people can thrive.


Mondays, 3:30 - 4:45
Attend the Date Designed for You:
• **Nov. 3** for educators
• **Nov. 10** for leaders
• **Dec. 1** for community schools

JOIN OUR ADOLESCENT LITERACY NETWORK
We're inviting teams to join a statewide community of practice where teams learn together, collaborate across schools, and tackle literacy and executive function challenges rooted in their own context.

THURSDAYS, 3:30-4:45 PM
▶ Oct. 23 - Kick off ▶ Nov. 20 ▶ Dec. 11 ▶ Jan. 22 ▶ Feb. 26
Interested Teams Click **HERE**

QUESTIONS
Email risecocoe.k12.ca.us









2025-26 RDRS Webinar Series for all CA Educators

SCREENING FOR LITERACY SUCCESS: FROM INSIGHT TO ACTION

Ready to strengthen your screening practices and meet RDRS legislated requirements? Join Project ARISE and partner, National Center on Intensive Intervention (NCII), for this free three-part webinar series.




Session 1: Understanding Screeners
Monday, Sept. 22 - 3:30-4:45 pm
Launch our 3-part series with a powerful overview of screening within an MTSS.
• Understand the purpose of reading screeners
• Identify key features that make screeners effective
• Adopt the right mindsets to turn data into action
• Explore how engaging families enhances support

Session 2: Collecting Quality Data
Monday, Oct. 20 - 3:30-4:45 pm
Take the next in our 3-part series with a focused look at the logistics behind effective screening.
• Plan screening thoughtfully to ensure clarity and consistency
• Use fidelity checks to maintain data quality and ensure reliable implementation
• Train data collectors for accuracy and consistency

Session 3: Using Data for Support
Monday, Nov. 17 - 3:30-4:45 pm
Wrap up our 3-part series by unlocking the power of screening data for decision-making across all tiers of support.
• Evaluate the effectiveness Tier 1 instruction
• Identify students needing Tier 2 or 3 support
• Use data to strengthen core practices
• Share results with families to build trust and collaboration

Sessions facilitated by our content partner:
Jon Potter, Ph.D.





Dr. Jon Potter is a Senior Technical Assistance Consultant at AR, supporting both the National Center on Intensive Intervention (NCII) and the National MTSS Center. He advises state agencies and school districts on MTSS, data-based decision making, and early literacy instruction and assessment. He also co-authored *Untangling Data-Based Decision Making: A Problem-Solving Model to Enhance MTSS*, a practical guide that helps educators use student data to drive instruction and plan effective interventions across all tiers of support.



National Center on Intensive Intervention

ATTEND ONE OR ALL
Register **HERE** or bit.ly/ariserdrswswebinars to register. Registered participants will receive recordings & follow up communication.

Questions? Email: risecocoe.k12.ca.us

Save the Date

UCI Writing Project Literacy Conference 2026

The Science of Writing

@ UCI Student Center
Saturday, January 10
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker:
Young-Suk Grace Kim

Panel discussion by
Steve Graham and Karen Harris

Workshops by:

- Ralph Ferretti
- Erica Lembke
- Allison Serceki
- Joshua Wilson
- Michael Hebert
- Zoi Philipakkos
- Mark Warschauer
- and others!

UCI Writing Project

949-824-5922 | uciwritingproject@uci.edu | writingproject.uci.edu

Conference Abstract:

How can we better understand **The Science of Writing** and translate it into impactful classroom practice? Join us at the 2026 UCI Annual Literacy Conference on January 10, where educators, researchers, and practitioners will gather to explore the science and practice of teaching writing, spanning from early literacy to high school composition.

Highlights of this year's conference include:

1. Insights into writing development and the processes that shape students' writing skills, grounded in the latest research.
2. Practical, evidence-based strategies for supporting students in becoming confident and skilled writers.
3. Approaches to fostering collaboration between researchers and educators, along with new applications of AI tools to enrich writing instruction and feedback.

Whether you're looking to enhance your teaching, engage with cutting-edge research, or connect with others passionate about writing education, this conference will provide valuable tools and ideas to inspire your students and transform your practice. Let's shape the future of writing together!

Topics Include:

- Writing Development and Assessment
- Instructional Interventions for Elementary & Secondary Students
- AI and Writing
- The Reading & Writing Connection
- and more!

demco

Book Care Workshop

With the Book Doctor, Kimberly Young

- Hands-on training
- Tailored **repair** and **processing** instruction
- Free book care resources

bit.ly/bookdoctorgghs031226

Thursday, March 12, 2026
Garden Grove High School
11271 Stanford Avenue
1-3 pm
Rosan Cable
rcable@ggusd.us
Library Office: 714-663-6197

SAVE THE DATE

In-person

TEACHER LIBRARIAN CONVENING

1:00-3:00pm
Connection Hour- 3:00-4:00pm

Thurs. Sept 11, 2025
Tues. Nov 4, 2025
Thurs. March 12, 2026
Wed. May 6, 2026

LCAP: Student Engagement, Pupil Achievement, School Climate, Basic Services & Conditions
CA-MTSS: Inclusive Academic Instruction, Integrated Supports
531 Plan: Academic Focus, Expanding Career & Technical Education, Integrating Artificial Intelligence

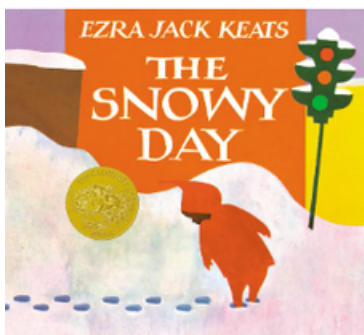
Questions? Contact:
Sandra Pradyanata at spradyanata@ocpe.us

OC pathways
Orange County Department of Education

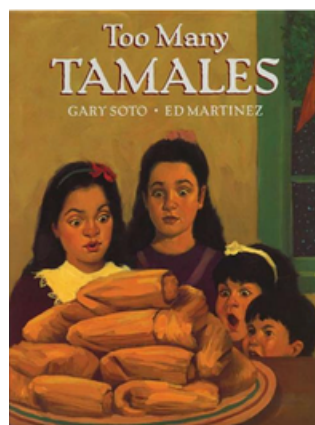
Sharon Beas, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools



Check out all of Teaching Books' Timely Topic Resources



December
Winter and Snow



December
Holiday Collection



December 5th
International Volunteer Day

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

**Looking to keep students creating right up to the last bell? Join the
[12 Days of Creativity Challenge!](#)**

What it is: A festive collection of bite-sized creative activities (approx. 10 mins each). Students can design "ugly sweaters," create animated snow globes, or make "You-in-a-Box" animations.

The Literacy Link: These visual prompts are perfect for "micro-writing." Have students add a caption to their snow globe explaining a winter memory, or write a persuasive product description for their ugly sweater design.

Why we love it: It's low-prep, high-engagement, and adaptable for all grade levels—perfect for that final countdown to Winter Break.



Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services

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