



Stefan Bean, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

OC Literacy & Language



February 2026 Newsletter

February is a perfect reminder that literacy is an act of connection. In the spirit of Valentine's Day, we're celebrating the many ways words build belonging—through read-alouds, shared stories, handwritten notes, and the languages that carry home, history, and heart. As we honor Black History Month and welcome Lunar New Year, we're also uplifting students' voices and identities—because the most powerful love letter we can offer learners is a classroom where their stories and languages are truly seen.

February Dates to Note:

Black History Month Theme: A Century of Black History Commemorations

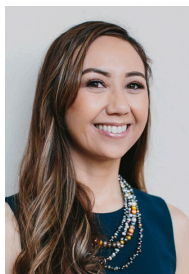
- February 2: Groundhog Day
- February 4: World Read Aloud Day
- February 10: Safer Internet Day
- February 14: International Book Giving Day
- February 16: Presidents' Day
- February 17: Lunar New Year
- February 17: Random Acts of Kindness Day
- February 26: Tell a Fairy Tale Day



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Upcoming Literacy Offerings

Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services
Curriculum, Instruction and Academic Achievement 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 site leaders, administrators play a pivotal role in ensuring that implementation is smooth, timely, meaningful, and that all staff support students. This three-part virtual professional learning series will equip administrators with the knowledge, tools, and strategies to lead screening efforts with confidence. 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 working in families
- Screening multilingual learners and students with an IEP or 504
- MTSS integration
- Analysis of data
- Instructional response

11/19/25, 12/9/25, 1/13/26
1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
VIRTUAL
FREE
Register at <https://ocde.a12um.com/j288-272349> or scan the QR code

Audience: Elementary Site Principals & Leaders
ICAP: Consistent of Learning Implementation of Standard
MTSS: Inclusive Academic Instruction

For content questions, contact Amber Fleming-McCabe at amccabe@ocde.us
For registration questions, contact Casey Arita at caarita@ocde.us



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 Achievement Unit

ELEMENTARY COMPREHENSIVE ELD: INTEGRATED AND DESIGNATED STRATEGIES

Target Audience:
K-4 Induction
Teachers and Mentors

VIRTUAL
11/19/25, 12/11/25
1:400 - 3:30 p.m.
FREE
Registration link: <https://ocde.a12um.com/j288-261181> 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: Consistent of Learning Implementation of Standard
MTSS: Inclusive Academic and Behavioral Instruction

For content questions, contact Casey Arita at caarita@ocde.us
For registration questions, contact Casey Arita at caarita@ocde.us



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 Achievement Unit

IN-PERSON EXPOSITORY READING AND WRITING CURRICULUM (ERWC)

Preparing High School Students for College-level English

CSU The California State University

This 24-hour workshop series introduces the ERWC Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum (ERWC), including the following:

- Full-year ELA courses at grade 9 and grade 12
- Curriculum modules with integrated and designated ELD at grades 9-12

This professional learning is intended to be an active experience, providing hands-on practice with the ERWC curriculum. These rich, integrative resources are designed to help students develop the academic literacy skills necessary for success in college and the world of work.

Aligned with the California Standards for ELA and ELD, both courses at grades 9 and 12 are approved to satisfy the "W" English subject requirement for UC and CSU admission. The modules for grades 9-12 with integrated and designated ELD may be integrated with existing ELA and ELD courses at those grades.

IN-PERSON FORMAT: Participants must attend all four days of the session.



Free
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Orange County Department of Education

Registration questions: caarita@ocde.us
Content questions: amccabe@ocde.us
ICAP High School English
ERWC: Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum

FALL 2025 SESSION
Days 1 & 2: September 2 & 3
Days 3 & 4: October 14 & 15

WINTER 2026 SESSION
Days 1 & 2: December 18 & 19
Days 3 & 4: January 27 & 28

SPRING 2026 SESSION
Days 1 & 2: February 24 & 25
Days 3 & 4: March 24 & 25

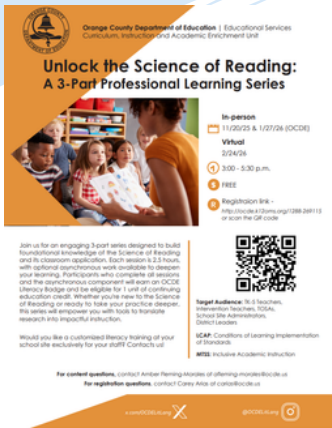



ERWC

Days 1 & 2: February 24-25 | Days 3 & 4: March 24-25
Register [here](#)

A free four-day introductory course for Grade 9-12 ELA and ELD Teachers is available for those new to teaching the ERWC course and those interested in learning how to incorporate ERWC modules into their curriculum. Each session is two weeks in length comprised of two days each week.

Upcoming Literacy Offerings



Unlock the Science of Reading

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

Register [here](#)

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.

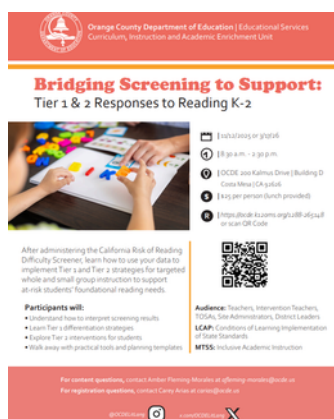


Community of Practice: Comprehensive ELD

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

Register [here](#)

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](#)

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.

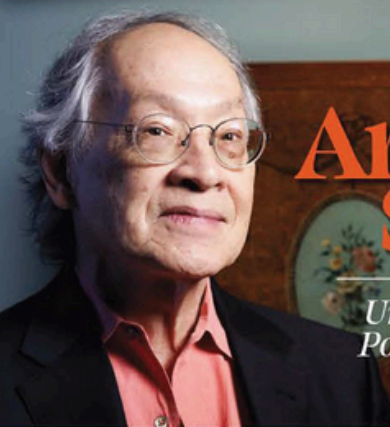
Please click on the link below to see our professional development trainings

[2025-26 Literacy and Language Calendar](#)

View all flyers and resources [here](#)

Save the Date

Arts The 16th Creative Edge Lecture
ORANGE COUNTY
Bringing thought-leaders on creativity to Orange County since 2010



Arthur Sze
United States Poet Laureate

FREE WITH REGISTRATION Tuesday, March 3 | 10am
Irvine Barclay Theatre

Join us for this exceptional opportunity to hear our nation's 25th Poet Laureate speak in Orange County.

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

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

Book Care Workshop
With the Book Doctor,
Kimberly Young

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


bit.ly/bookdoctorggusd031226



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



OC pathways
Orange County Department of Education

LCAP: Student Engagement, Pupil Achievement, School Climate, Basic Services & Conditions
CA-MTSS: Inclusive Academic Instruction, Integrated Supports
5-3-1 Plan: Academic Focus, Expanding Career & Technical Education, Integrating Artificial Intelligence

Questions? Contact:
Sandra Pradyanata at
sapradyanata@ocde.us



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@ocde.net

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:



Climate Storytelling Contest

Climate change, primarily caused through the burning of fossil fuels like oil and gas, is impacting communities in California and across the globe. Many feelings can come up when thinking about climate change and it's easy to get lost in the data, graphs, and scientific literature. What if storytelling can help us understand those feelings and teach us something about climate change? The California Coastal Commission invites middle and high school students to answer the prompt below through a podcast, photo essay, or narrative essay.

What are your feelings about climate change?
How could those feelings lead to action?

Choose a medium

- **Podcast**
Record voice audio that answers the prompt (up to 7 minutes).
- **Photo Essay**
Take 8-10 original photos to answer the prompt and compile a photo essay.
- **Narrative essay**
Write a personal narrative essay answering the prompt (up to 650 words).

Submit
entries
from
**September
15, 2025
through
May 28,
2026**



Spotlight and Opportunities

Attention Teachers!

You are invited to apply to participate in the 2026 English Language Arts/English Language Development (ELA/ELD) Follow-up Adoption of Instructional Materials for Transitional Kindergarten through Grade Eight!

Participation Requirements
Reviewer Training: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Sacramento

- April 28-May 1, 2026 (Reviewers must attend all four days.)
- May-July 2026
- Plan to be available the weeks of July 20-24 or July 27-31, 2026 (Reviewers must attend all four days of their assigned week.)

The CDE will reimburse travel costs for all reviewers for the meeting days. Reviewers will receive a \$100 stipend per day for full participation in the four days of reviewer training in April-May 2026 and the four days of deliberations in July 2026.

<https://tinyurl.com/2026elaeldmr>

**2026 CDE Textbook Adoption
Orange County Instructional
Materials Reviewers**

AESD	Katie Hernandez
AESD	Denise Reynoso
AUHSD	Paola Rosenberg
CUSD	Reannah Sartoris
GGUSD	Duyen Tong
NMUSD	Rosina Talamantes
OUSD	Amber Tatch
PYLUSD	Kim Martinez
TUSD	Marisa Conroy

**Orange County Voices
Shaping California ELA/ELD
Instructional Materials**

**Attention Literacy
Leaders!**

The California Department of Education (CDE) Professional Learning Support Division is excited to announce that the Literacy Professional Development (PD) Programs Review Committee Application is now posted.

CDE Literacy PD Programs Review Committee - Now Accepting Applications

- Purpose: Review Literacy PD programs for alignment with state criteria and recommend programs for State Board of Education approval
- Who Should Apply: Educators with expertise in TK-5 literacy, English Language Development, and effective professional learning
- Time Commitment:
 - Virtual calibration: March 16, 2026
 - Independent review: Mid-March-Mid-May 2026
 - Virtual deliberations: May 18-22, 2026 (limited in-person option in Sacramento; travel reimbursed if applicable)
- Application Deadline: February 12, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
- Learn More: www.cde.ca.gov/ci/pl/literacyvndrc
- Apply: <https://tinyurl.com/literacyvndrc>

Questions? PD@cde.ca.gov



Check out all of Teaching Books' Timely Topic Resources



**International Day of Women and Girls
in Science February 11th**



Black History Month

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

Tool: SIFT — Stop • Investigate • Find • Trace

Tip: Try a “SIFT Sprint” before students hit submit:

Stop — What’s the claim? What do we think we know?

Investigate — Who made this and why should we trust them?

Find better coverage — Can we confirm it in another reliable place?

Trace to the original — Where did it first come from (data, study, primary source)?

Quick add-on: Have students include a one-line “SIFT receipt” at the end:

“I traced this claim to ____.”

February 10: Safer Internet Day

Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services

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