



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 Enrichment Unit

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

California has introduced a new Risk of Reading Difficulties Screener, and site administrators play a critical role in ensuring that implementation is smooth, data is meaningful, and results are used effectively. This three-part 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 process, from understanding the legislation to using data for instructional response.

Topics include:

- Understanding the legislation
- Using the screener to engage families
- Screening multilingual learners and students with IEPs or 504 plans
- MTSS integration
- Analysing data
- Instructional response

Details:
11/6/25, 12/9/25, 1/13/26
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Virtual
FREE
Register [here](http://ocde.k12oms.org/288-261)

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

For content questions, contact Amber Fennig-Morales of offering-morales@ocde.us
For registration questions, contact Casey Ailes of casey.ailes@ocde.us

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



Offered by the Orange County Department of Education

Reading Screener for Site Leaders

December 9, 2025, January 13, 2026, February 11, 2026 | 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Register [here](http://ocde.k12oms.org/288-261)

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-6 Induction
Teachers and Mentors

VIRTUAL
1/1/26, 2/1/26
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
FREE
Registration link: ocde.k12oms.org/288-261 or scan the QR code

Join us for a two-part Zoom series!
This no-cost professional development is designed for induction teachers, or mentors, to learn about integrated 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
MITS: Inclusive Academic and Behavioral Instruction

For content questions, contact Louise Vito of lvito@ocde.us
For registration questions, contact Casey Ailes of casey.ailes@ocde.us

Offered by the Orange County Department of Education



Offered by the Orange County Department of Education

Elementary Comprehensive ELD: Integrated and Designated Strategies

January 14 & February 11, 2026 | 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Register [here](http://ocde.k12oms.org/288-261)

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

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 to the English teacher. This professional learning is intended to be an active experience, with opportunities for reflection and discussion. These workshops, developed by the English Language Arts Department, are designed to help students develop the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in college and the world of work.

ERWC modules with integrated and designated ELD at grades 9-12

9-12

This professional learning is intended to be an active experience, with opportunities for reflection and discussion. These workshops, developed by the English Language Arts Department, are designed to help students develop the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in college and the world of work.

ERWC modules with integrated and designated ELD at grades 9-12

9-12

ERWC modules with integrated and designated ELD at grades 9-12

9-12

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

FREE
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Content questions: Dr. Debbie Hartman: dhartman@ocde.us

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

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

SPRING 2026 SESSION
Days 1 & 2: March 20 & 21
Days 3 & 4: March 24 & 25

Offered by the Orange County Department of Education



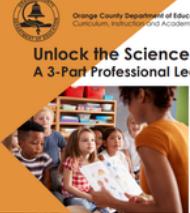
Offered by the Orange County Department of Education

ERWC

Days 1 & 2: February 24-25 | Days 3 & 4: March 24-25
Register [here](http://ocde.k12oms.org/288-261)

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



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

Unlock the Science of Reading:
A 3-Part Professional Learning Series

In-person | 1/26/25 & 1/27/26 (OCDE) | Virtually | 3/24/26 | 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. | FREE | Register here | <https://ocde.org/1288-269113> or scan QR code

Target Audience: 9-12 teachers, Curriculum Coaches, District Site Administrators, and Principals

NCAP: Conditions of Learning Implementation of Standards
MTSS: Inclusive Academic Instruction

Join us for an engaging 3-part series designed to build foundational knowledge of the Science of Reading and its classroom application. Each session is 2.5 hours. Participants who complete all sessions 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.

Would you like a customized Science of Reading training for your school site exclusively for your staff? Contact us!

For content questions, contact Amber Perning-Morales at aperning@ocde.org. For registration questions, contact Carey Anna at canna@ocde.org.

ocde.org/1288-269113 | <https://ocde.org/1288-269113> | <https://ocde.org/1288-269113> | <https://ocde.org/1288-269113>

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.



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

LTEL Network and Communities of Practice

Caring & education of Long Term English Learners (LTEL) is a priority shared by all districts in OCDE. 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.

LTEL Network Meetings
Panel 1: Building Practices 1 & 2
Target Audience: District & Site Leaders, Curriculum Coaches, and Principals

Community of Practice: Comprehensive ELD
Panel 1: Building Practices 1 & 2
Target Audience: Teachers, Curriculum Coaches, District Site Administrators, and Principals

NCAP: Conditions of Learning Implementation of Standards
MTSS: Inclusive Academic Instruction

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.

For content questions, contact Carey Anna at canna@ocde.org. For registration questions, contact Amber Perning-Morales at aperning@ocde.org.

ocde.org/1288-269113 | <https://ocde.org/1288-269113> | <https://ocde.org/1288-269113> | <https://ocde.org/1288-269113>

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.



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Bridging Screening to Support:
Tier 1 & 2 Responses to Reading K-2

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
- Walk away with practical tools and planning templates

Audience: Teachers, Intervention Teachers, Curriculum Coaches, District Leaders
NCAP: Conditions of Learning Implementation of Standards
MTSS: Inclusive Academic Instruction

For content questions, contact Amber Perning-Morales at aperning@ocde.org. For registration questions, contact Carey Anna at canna@ocde.org.

ocde.org/1288-269113 | <https://ocde.org/1288-269113> | <https://ocde.org/1288-269113> | <https://ocde.org/1288-269113>

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

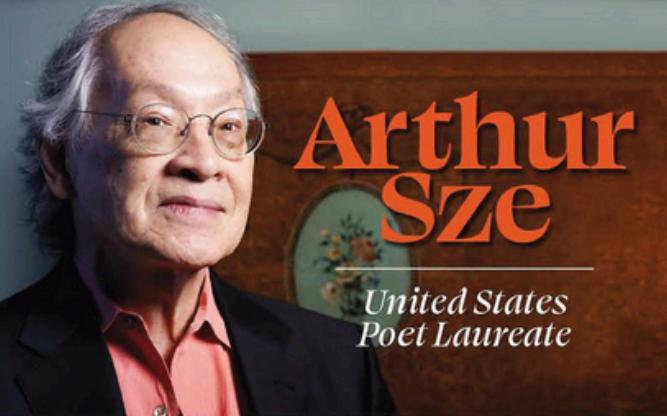
[View all flyers and resources here](#)

Save the Date

Arts
ORANGE COUNTY

The 16th Creative Edge Lecture

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

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

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

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

4259070325

REGISTER HERE

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
5-3-1 Plan: Academic Focus, Expanding Career & Technical Education, Integrating Artificial Intelligence

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OC pathways
Orange County Department of Education

Questions? Contact:
sandra.pradyana@ocde.us



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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:

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, research, and presentation. 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
<https://tinyurl.com/APintheOC2026>



This AP Summer Institute is endorsed by:
CollegeBoard AP

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 are common 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



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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/2026elaeldimr>



2026 CDE Textbook Adoption Orange County Instructional Materials Reviewers



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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*



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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/cpi/literacynd.asp
- Apply: <https://tinyurl.com/literacyndprc>





*Check out all of TeachingBooks'
Timely Topic Resources*



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

Black History Month

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

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

To subscribe to our newsletter scan the QR code below

