



Stefan Bean, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

OC Literacy & Language

January 2026 Newsletter

Happy New Year!

January is the great reboot: fresh pages, fresh ideas, and just enough caffeine to keep the plot moving. As we settle in, we also celebrate National Braille Literacy Month, a reminder of the many ways students access, experience, and shape literacy. Here's to sparking curiosity, elevating student voices, and finding joy in the everyday magic of language as we begin a brand-new year together.

January Dates to Note:

- New Year's Day: Jan 1
- National Science Fiction Day: Jan 2
- J.R.R. Tolkien Day: Jan 3
- National Thesaurus Day/Winnie-the-Pooh Day: Jan 18
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Jan 19
- National Handwriting Day: Jan 23
- International Holocaust Remembrance Day: Jan 27
- Multicultural Children's Book Day: Jan 29



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Secondary Coordinator

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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 leaders, 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.

Topic include:

- Understanding the legislation
- Communicating and involving families
- Screening multilingual learners and students with an IEP or 504
- Valid integration
- Analyzing data
- Instructional response

Topic include:

- 1/11/25, 12/9/25, 1/13/26
- 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
- Virtual
- FREE

Register at <https://ocde.k12or.us/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.us
For registration questions, contact Casey Alspa at calspa@ocde.k12or.us

Reading Screener for Site Leaders

December 9, 2025, January 13, 2026, February 11, 2026 | 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Register [here](https://ocde.k12or.us/1288-272349)

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
1:400 - 3:30 p.m.
FREE

Registration link: <https://ocde.k12or.us/1288-284184> 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 Laurie Wilson at lwilson@ocde.k12or.us
For registration questions, contact Casey Alspa at calspa@ocde.k12or.us

Elementary Comprehensive ELD: Integrated and Designated Strategies

January 14 & February 11, 2026 | 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Register [here](https://ocde.k12or.us/1288-284184)

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 CIO 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, adaptive 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 CIO admission. The modules for grades 9-12 with integrated and designated ELD may be integrated into 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

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

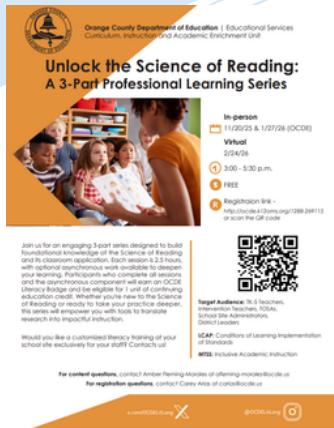
Registration questions: calspa@ocde.k12or.us
Content questions: lwilson@ocde.k12or.us
ICAP High School English
ICAP High School English

ERWC

Days 1 & 2: February 24-25 | Days 3 & 4: March 24-25
Register [here](https://ocde.k12or.us/1288-284184)

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

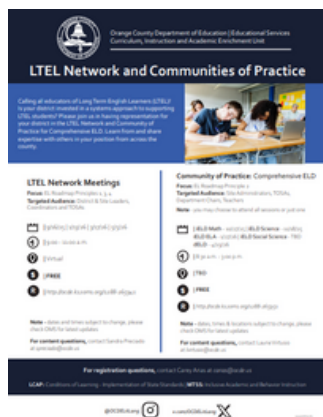


Unlock the Science of Reading

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

Register [here](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.

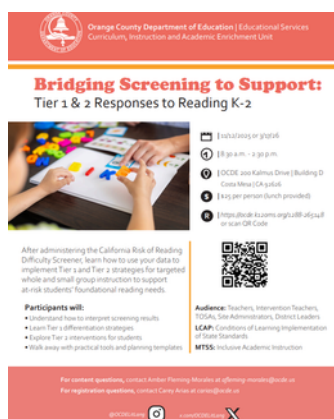


Community of Practice: Comprehensive ELD

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.

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

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

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

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

Register

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

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

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.

REGISTER HERE

Dates:
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: galvarez@ocde.us | Ph: 714-966-4228

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

4259070329

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**

OC pathways
Orange County Department of Education

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

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

Save the Date



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

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County Superintendent of Schools



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 (714) 966-4307

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

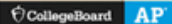
\$799 - Full Institute rate

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**





Check out all of Teaching Books' Timely Topic Resources



Every Month is a New Year



Martin Luther King Jr. 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

Free Tool Spotlight – Quill.org

Start the year with a literacy boost using [Quill.org](#), a free platform full of interactive reading and writing activities that strengthen comprehension, grammar, and evidence-based writing. Students dive into meaningful practice while you get ready-to-use activities that fit your curriculum.



Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services

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