



# OC Literacy and Language

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

## Welcome to May — a Month Full of Literacy, Language, and Learning!

As flowers bloom and school years begin to wind down, May reminds us that growth is everywhere — especially in our classrooms! This month, we're celebrating the power of words, the joy of stories, and the endless possibilities that literacy and language bring to our students' lives. Let's spring forward together with fresh ideas, blossoming connections, and a little extra sparkle as we head toward summer.

Important May Highlights:

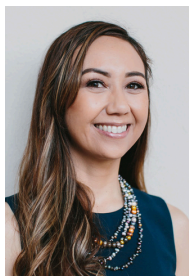
- **Children's Book Week (May 5-11):** The perfect excuse to dive into new adventures and timeless classics!
- **Teacher Appreciation Week (May 5-11):** Thank you for being the real MVPs of literacy and learning.
- **Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month:** Celebrate diverse voices and powerful stories all month long.
- **Better Hearing and Speech Month:** A great reminder of the critical connections between language development and literacy success!
- **Our Final Literacy and Language Network Meeting (May 13 at OCDE):** We can't wait to celebrate our year of learning and collaboration with all of you — let's end the year strong (and maybe with a few treats)!

**Let's make May magical — one word, one story, and one celebration at a time!**



**Amber Fleming-Morales**

Literacy & Language  
Elementary Coordinator  
[afleming-morales@ocde.us](mailto:afleming-morales@ocde.us)



**Laurie Virtusio, Ed.D**

Literacy & Language  
Differentiated Assistance  
Coordinator  
[lvirtusio@ocde.us](mailto:lvirtusio@ocde.us)



**Virginia Reischl, Ed.D.**

Literacy and Language  
Secondary Coordinator  
[vreischl@ocde.us](mailto:vreischl@ocde.us)

# Upcoming Literacy Offerings



## Write to Joy: K-12 Writing Conference

**October 11, 2025**  
**8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**  
Register [here](#)

**Write to Joy** is more than a conference—it's a celebration of writing, creativity, and inspiration! Connect with passionate educators, discover fresh strategies, and ignite a love for writing in your students. Dive into hands-on workshops, vibrant discussions, and collaborative sessions that will leave you energized and equipped with practical tools. Featured speaker Jen Robert, a National Board Certified teacher and digital pedagogy expert, will share her insights on literacy and the power of generative AI in education. Don't miss this opportunity to spark joy in writing—for you and your students! Accepting Proposals at <https://tinyurl.com/cn3thwz7> - proposal due date is July 1, 2025



## ERWC Literacy Conference

**June 23, 2025**  
Register [here](#)

Join California educational leaders for an inspiring showcase of best practices in rhetorical reading and writing instruction, language learning, curriculum development, and culturally and linguistically sustaining pedagogies. Register here to attend the 2025 ERWC Literacy Conference. Conference registration is FREE!



## Everyone has the Right to Read

**Virtual**  
**June 17, 2025**  
Register [here](#)

On June 17th, 2025, join educators and colleagues virtually from across California collaborating around evidence-based practices in literacy instruction!

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

**2024-25 Literacy and Language Calendar**

# Save the Date



2025  
PROFESSIONAL  
LEARNING  
INSTITUTE



**Register Now**  
**JULY 22-24, 2025**  
**ANAHEIM, CA**



**ccee**  
California Collaborative  
for Educational Excellence



## GRANT-FUNDED GRADUATE COURSEWORK FOR TEACHERS



### READING INTERVENTION IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH

Project CLEAR is a grant-funded professional learning opportunity designed for teachers interested in gaining expertise in reading intervention. This knowledge will help teachers expand availability and access to literacy acceleration, prevention, and intervention for their diverse students, including students who are English learners, students in dual language programs, and students with disabilities, including those with dyslexia and/or phonological processing issues.

Through this one-year program, participants will learn comprehensive literacy strategies in schools and K-12 interventions for students who have reading, writing, and language-based needs.



**PROJECT CLEAR (CALIFORNIA LITERACY ELEVATION BY ACCELERATING READING) IS FUNDED BY THE CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE.**



#### INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM

- Tuition for 8 postgraduate units over two semesters (including certification in Reading Recovery/ Descubriendo la Lectura)
- Training fees
- \$680 for student instructional materials
- \$10,000 stipend upon completion of the 8 units

**This grant-funded opportunity is designed for classroom teachers and reading specialists.**



**ccee**  
California Collaborative  
for Educational Excellence



## GRANT-FUNDED GRADUATE COURSEWORK FOR TEACHER LEADERS



### READING INTERVENTION IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH

Project CLEAR is a grant-funded opportunity to provide professional development to educators interested in becoming a Teacher Leader with expertise in reading intervention. These Teacher Leaders can expand availability and access to literacy acceleration, prevention, and intervention for diverse students in their district or school, including students who are English learners, students in dual language programs, and students with disabilities, including those with dyslexia and/or phonological processing issues.

Through this program, participants will become Teacher Leaders who can train and coach teachers to implement comprehensive literacy strategies in schools and K-12 interventions for students who have reading, writing, and language-based needs.



**PROJECT CLEAR (CALIFORNIA LITERACY ELEVATION BY ACCELERATING READING) IS FUNDED BY THE CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE.**

#### INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM

- Tuition for 16 postgraduate units over two semesters (including certification in Reading Recovery/ Descubriendo la Lectura)
- Training Fees
- Professional books
- Student instructional materials
- Up to \$1,600 for registration fees and travel expenses for the national Teacher Leader Institute
- Professional development in the program's second year
- \$10,000 stipend upon successful completion of 16 units

**This grant-funded opportunity is designed for teachers on special assignment, district resource teachers, teacher leaders, and reading specialists.**



OC Public Libraries Presents

## Resume Development & Interview Skills Workshop Series



Check out all of Teaching Books' May Timely Topic Resources [Here](#)



---

# Resources

- Need information about the upcoming Screener for Risk of Reading Difficulties, including Dyslexia? Here is the [OCDE Information Guide](#), updated frequently as new information is released. We are here to support the implementation of this initiative in any way that we can!
- [Check out the latest CDE Literacy Newsletter for information on Statewide Literacy.](#)
- [Bookshare](#) curated a [list](#) for the 2024 update! Bookshare provides access to a huge collection of ebooks that are customizable for people with reading barriers.



---

# Tech Corner

## ⚡ Instant Games with Wordwall

Need a quick review game or exit ticket with zero prep? Try [Wordwall](#)! This tool turns your questions into interactive games like **Whack-a-Mole**, **Match Up**, **Anagram Hunts**, or **Spin the Wheel**—and it works great on smartboards, Chromebooks, or student devices.

💡 **Tech Hack Tip:** Create ONE activity (like vocab review or comprehension check) and instantly switch it into multiple formats. No need to remake anything—just toggle between game styles to keep it fresh!

Bonus: Print-friendly options mean you can use it for offline centers, too. It's a time-saver with high student engagement!

**Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services**

To subscribe to our newsletter scan the QR code below

