



# OC Literacy and Language

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



November is **Family Literacy Month**. This is a wonderful time to celebrate the role families play in helping children grow as readers, writers, and thinkers. When schools and families connect around literacy, we create joyful opportunities for language, learning, and belonging that extend far beyond the classroom.

OCDE invites schools and districts across the county to join in celebrating National Family Literacy Month. Plan a Family Literacy Night, share your stories, and explore ideas and activities on our Family Literacy Toolkit and Resources for Families page at [tinyurl.com/ocdefamilyliteracy](https://tinyurl.com/ocdefamilyliteracy). As you celebrate with your school communities, be sure to check out upcoming OCDE literacy trainings and professional learning opportunities to continue strengthening classroom practice and collaboration around reading, writing, and language development.

Let's continue to build bridges between home and school through reading together, telling stories, and celebrating every child's language and culture. We are so incredibly grateful for you — for your commitment to students, families, and the shared work of growing joyful, confident readers and writers across our county.



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# Upcoming Literacy Offerings



## Celebrate Family Literacy Month!

**Google Form Due Friday, November 7, 2025**

Join the Orange County Department of Education in celebrating National Family Literacy Month. Our new flyer highlights resources, activities, and a toolkit to help schools and families create joyful literacy experiences that promote learning and connection. Explore ideas for hosting a Family Literacy Night, engage families through meaningful reading activities, and share your celebrations with us for a chance to be featured on our social media page and enter up to three teacher nominations into a Scholastic classroom book set drawing. Download flyer [here](#).



## Reading Screener for Site Leaders

**November 6, 2025, December 9, 2025, January 13, 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.



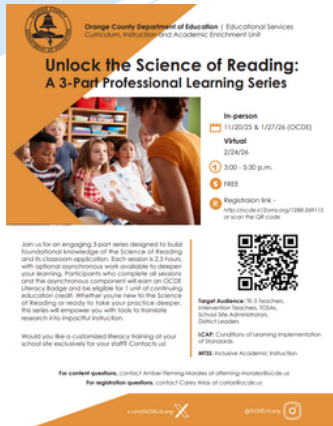
## Bridging Screening to Support

**November 12, 2025 or 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.

# Upcoming Literacy Offerings

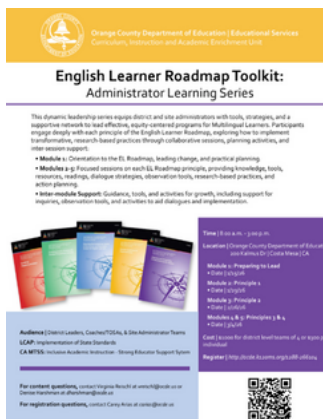


## Unlock the Science of Reading

**November 20, 2025, January 27, February 27, 2026 | 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

Register [here](#)

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, 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.



## English Learner Roadmap Toolkit: Administrator Learning Series

**January 15 & 29, February 26, and March 4, 2026**

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.

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



**Orange County Department of Education**  
Educational Services Division  
Continuous Improvement & Leadership Development

## DESIGNING CLASSROOMS WHERE LEARNING THRIVES

**Presented by Dr. Doug Fisher**

Explore the conditions that make classrooms highly engaging, from clear learning goals to student collaboration and meaningful feedback. Learn practical strategies to design lessons and routines that maximize attention, motivation, and achievement.



**Wednesday, November 12**  
**8:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Hertzog Center**  
**1845 PARK AVE.**  
**COSTA MESA**

**Participants will:**

- Identify the essential features of an engaging classroom environment.
- Explore strategies for building relevance and motivation into lessons.
- Learn approaches to increase collaboration and student voice.
- Develop routines that foster active participation and deeper learning.

**REGISTER NOW** **NO COST**

**Questions**  
[cmunoz@ocde.us](mailto:cmunoz@ocde.us)

<https://ocde.k12oms.org/1268-272013>  
DA districts will receive priority registration. Please see CMS link for details.

LCAP: Pupil Outcomes/Pupil Achievement CA MTSS: Whole Child  
Individuals with disabilities in need of auxiliary aides and services may request assistance by contacting [cmunoz@ocde.us](mailto:cmunoz@ocde.us). OCDE may use images of participants to promote events.

Who should attend: District & Site Leaders, Teacher Leaders



**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](mailto:wkriesel@ocde.us) | Ph: 714-966-4151

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

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

4/25/2025

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**



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.

**PROJECT ARISE**

**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](https://bit.ly/ariserdrswswebinars) to register. Registered participants will receive recordings & follow up communication.

Questions? Email: [nreccocoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:nreccocoe.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](http://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

**Questions? Contact:**  
Sandra Pradyanata at  
s3pradyanata@ocpe.usd.edu



## Check out all of Teaching Books' Timely Topic Resources



**November**  
Native American Heritage



**November 13th**  
World Kindness Day



**November**  
Picture Book Month

Click [here](#) to view the resources folder

# Resources

- Need information about the upcoming Screener for Risk of Reading Difficulties, including Dyslexia? 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 guide effective literacy instruction by applying the English Language Arts (ELA)/English Language Development (ELD) Framework.
- Check out this amazing resource for [Integrated ELD Strategies](#)



## Tech Corner

### ChatGPT's Cousin, Perplexity

If ChatGPT had a fact-checking sibling, it would be **Perplexity.ai**. This tool blends conversational AI with built-in citations, giving you quick, trustworthy summaries—perfect for when you need background info or classroom context on the fly. Ask it for “three research-based strategies for teaching inference” or “a summary of current literacy trends,” and it’ll serve up concise, sourced answers. Great for busy educators who want to sound brilliant and accurate.



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

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