



OC Literacy and Language

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

hello
September

September is buzzing with meaning and joy! We'll kick things off with **International Literacy Day** (Sept 8th)—because what's better than celebrating the power of stories? Then we roll into **Hispanic Heritage Month** (starting Sept 15th), a vibrant celebration of voices, languages, and cultures. On **Patriot Day** (Sept 11th) we pause for reflection and resilience, and by **Constitution Day & Week** (Sept 17th–23rd) we're ready to let curiosity about democracy spark classroom conversations.

And the best part? Our first Network Meeting is Sept 9th, we can't wait to see you there as we bring JOY back to teaching together!



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Upcoming Literacy Offerings

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

WRITE TO JOY: K-12 WRITING CONFERENCE 2025

Featured speaker: **Jen Roberts**
@TheJenRoberts | @OCDEduc

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 Roberts, 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!

As a Learning Professional at OCDE, I'm thrilled to announce the upcoming Write to Joy on August 11, 2025.

For content questions: Contact Lauren Thomas, Literacy Specialist at lauren.thomas@ocde.us or lthomas@ocde.us
For registration questions: Contact Carrie Ann at carriea@ocde.us

Write to Joy: K-12 Writing Conference

October 11, 2025 | 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. OCDE Conference Center
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 Roberts, 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!

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

Literacy and Language Network 2025-26

The Literacy and Language Network will meet the second Tuesday of each month.

Audience: District Leaders, Coaches/TOSAs, Coordinators, Curriculum Specialists

Virtual Dates: 2nd Tuesday of each month

In Person Dates: Sept. - OCDE | Oct. 14, 18D | Nov. - 18D | Dec. - OCDE | Feb. - 18D | Mar. - 18D | May - OCDE

Time: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Cost: FREE

Register: <https://ocde.us/ocde-education>

Connect, Collaborate, and Expand Your Professional Network

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) values the work of educators dedicated to the areas of Literacy and Language. This network is a no-cost monthly opportunity for educators to discuss current and emerging topics in English Language Arts, English Language Development, and Disciplinary Literacy. If you are a literacy leader in your community, we encourage you to join our network.

LEAP: Conditions of Learning Implementation of Core Standards
CA-MTS: Academic Achievement

For content questions: Contact Lauren Thomas, Literacy Specialist at lauren.thomas@ocde.us or lthomas@ocde.us
For registration questions: Contact Carrie Ann at carriea@ocde.us

2025-2026 Literacy and Language Network

2nd Tuesday of each Month
Register [here](#)

Join our no-cost monthly opportunity for educators to discuss current and emerging topics in English Language Arts, English Language Development, and Disciplinary Literacy. If you are a literacy leader in your community, we encourage you to join our network.

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THE JOYFUL LITERACY CLASSROOM: DESIGNING INCLUSIVE SPACES

Target Audience: K-12 Induction Teachers and Mentors

VIRTUAL

10/8/25, 11/5/25, 12/3/25
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

FREE

Registration link: <https://ocde.us/ocde-education>

Join us for a three-part Zoom series! This no-cost professional development series is designed for induction teachers, with or without their mentors. Each session will explore how to create a welcoming, inclusive, and engaging literacy environment. Participants who attend all three sessions will receive an OCDE Digital Literacy Badge. Let's build joyful spaces where all students thrive!

LEAP: Conditions of Learning Implementation of Core Standards
MTS: Academic Achievement and Behavioral Indicators

For content questions: Contact Lauren Thomas at lauren@ocde.us
For registration questions: Contact Carrie Ann at carriea@ocde.us

The Joyful Literacy Classroom: Designing Inclusive Spaces

October 8, November 5, December 3, 2025 | 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Register [here](#)

Join us for a three-part Zoom series! This no-cost professional development series is designed for induction teachers, with or without their mentors. Each session will explore how to create a welcoming, inclusive, and engaging literacy environment. Participants who attend all three sessions will receive an OCDE Digital Literacy Badge. Let's build joyful spaces where all students thrive!

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Literacy and Executive Functions Community of Practice Series

Calling all educators involved with Student Study Teams (SST) to your district's writing, reading, and social studies SST process! This community of practice is for you.

Please join our field-based experts around literacy and executive functions. Bring your best of general education teachers, special education (SPED) teachers, and site administrators to learn from and share insights with colleagues from across the district.

Sessions: Planning and Organizing, Teaching Strategies, Building Memory, Social Interaction and Social Understanding

Virtual Dates: 10/29/25, 11/26/25, 12/3/25
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

FREE

Registration link: <https://ocde.us/ocde-education>

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.

Audience: K-12 Teachers, Coaches/TOSAs, Curriculum Specialists, Literacy Coordinators
LEAP: Conditions of Learning Implementation of Core Standards
MTS: Academic Achievement and Behavioral Indicators

For content questions: Contact Lauren Thomas at lauren@ocde.us
For registration questions: Contact Carrie Ann at carriea@ocde.us

Literacy and Executive Functions CoP

October 29, 2025, January 28, April 1, 2026 | 8:30 - 11:30 a.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.

Upcoming Literacy Offerings



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

Bridging Screening to Support:

Tier 1 & 2 Responses to Reading K-2

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, TOSAs, Site Administrators, District Leaders

ICAP: Conditions of Learning Implementation of State Standards

MTSS: Inclusive Academic Instruction

For content questions, contact Amber Fleming at afleming@ocde.usd.edu or on the QR Code

For registration questions, contact Corey Alon at calon@ocde.usd.edu

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.



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

Reignite the Joy: Empowering Adolescent Readers Through Strength-Based Literacy

Why We Succeed: Motivation, adolescent identity development, and joyful, evidence-based, research-aligned practices are the keys to rekindling adolescent reading interest. This series will explore how to leverage students' strengths and interests to build confidence and foster a love of reading.

Key 1: Celebrating Students' Identity, Interests, & Strengths

Key 2: Small Stories, Big Joy: Responsive Teaching & Learning for All

Key 3: From Judgment to Joy: Reimagining Literacy in the Classroom

Registration fee includes: Learning Literacy Tools from the Science of Reading, a Literacy Badge, and the Science of Reading and UDL frameworks.

Audience: K-12 Teachers, Intervention Teachers, TOSAs, Site Administrators, District Leaders

ICAP: Conditions of Learning Implementation of State Standards

MTSS: Inclusive Academic Instruction

For content questions, contact Amber Fleming at afleming@ocde.usd.edu or on the QR Code

For registration questions, contact Corey Alon at calon@ocde.usd.edu

Reignite the Joy: Empowering Adolescent Readers

November 13, 2025, January 13, March 3, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Register [here](#)

Too often, adolescent reading "intervention" becomes a label, rather than a launchpad. In this joyful, evidence-based, and research-aligned series, educators will explore how to reframe literacy support using the Science of Reading, UDL, and MTSS frameworks — without losing student voice, choice, or confidence.



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: 11/20/25 & 1/27/26 (OCDE) 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Virtual: 2/24/26 10:00 - 12:30 p.m.

FREE

Registration fee: \$25 per person (includes materials, lunch, and a Literacy Badge)

Target Audience: K-12 Teachers, Intervention Teachers, TOSAs, Site Administrators, District Leaders

ICAP: Conditions of Learning Implementation of State Standards

MTSS: Inclusive Academic Instruction

For content questions, contact Amber Fleming at afleming@ocde.usd.edu or on the QR Code

For registration questions, contact Corey Alon at calon@ocde.usd.edu

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.



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Celebrate Family Literacy Month

this November with OCDE!

This November, OCDE invites schools to celebrate National Family Literacy Month by engaging their communities in joyful literacy experiences that are linked to learning, collaboration, and interaction!

- Explore Resources**
Visit our literacy and family engagement Google Site for ideas, activities, and a Family Literacy Night Toolkit.
<https://www.ocde.usd.edu/familyliteracy>
- Plan a Family Literacy Night**
Create an event at your school to bring families together through stories, reading, and meaningful literacy activities. Don't forget to take pictures!
- Share your Celebration**
Post on Google Forms to be featured on OCDE's Literacy and Language social media and be entered into a raffle drawing for a Scholastic Family Engagement Book Set.
<https://www.ocde.usd.edu/familyliteracy>

Contact Us

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Coordinator, Family & Community Engagement
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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](#).

Save the Date

Please click on the link below to see next year's professional development trainings
2025-26 Literacy and Language Calendar

BEST READING CHALLENGE IN THE UNIVERSE!
 ✦ THE 4TH ANNUAL S.T.E.A.M. RACE TO SPACE READING CHALLENGE GRADES TK-12 ORBITS OCTOBER 3-24, 2025
 ✦ EARNING REWARDS IS EASY AND FUN!
 Explore and read stories about science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math. Everyone who finishes the challenge gets a personalized certificate of completion and a Reward Package.
 ✦ EAGER READERS EARN VIRTUAL TICKETS TO WIN BONUSES!
 • Book Bundles • Coding Lessons • Chromebook • Zoom Meeting with Notable Authors, Scientists or Mathematicians ✦
 Partnered with
SAVE THE DATE
 Registration - September 19, 2025
 Splashdown Celebration - November 8, 2025
 Organizations supporting this out-of-this-world reading challenge
 NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Education Office, 4SPACE, beanstack, San Diego Zoo Family Adventure Pass, Cane's, SONIC, MARS, BAZIC
 VISIT **READSTEAM.ORG** TO ENROLL
 Launching a love for learning

Check out our YouTube Channel!

S.T.E.A.M. RACE TO SPACE READING CHALLENGE
 ReadSTEAM.org

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 spradyanata@ocde.us

LITERACY FOR LITTLES
 FREE MONTHLY BOOKS FOR YOUR CHILD!
 A Historic Launch for All of Orange County, CA!
 Inspire your child's love of reading with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

How To Pre-Register:

- Enroll your child online at powerofonefoundation.org/imaginationlibrary
- Once the program launches, you will receive an email notifying you how to register your child.
- Once registered, books arrive in the mail monthly until your child's 5th birthday.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Any child 0-5 living in Orange County, CA!

Scan this code to pre-register your child for Orange County Imagination Library!

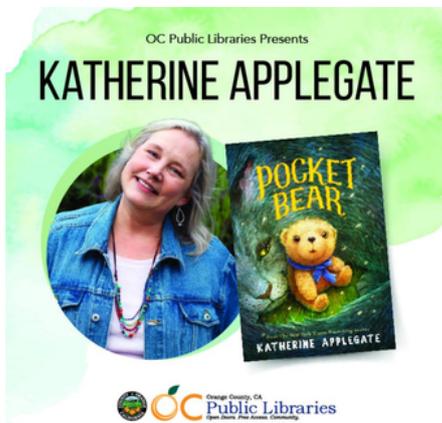


Dream More, Learn More, Care More, Be More™

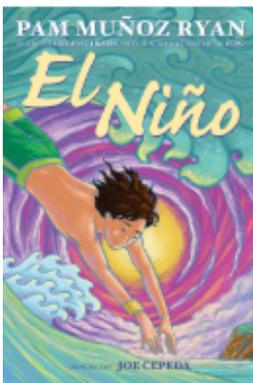


Power of One Foundation
 Email: info@powerofonefoundation.org Phone: 406-672-9617
powerofonefoundation.org/ocimaginationlibrary

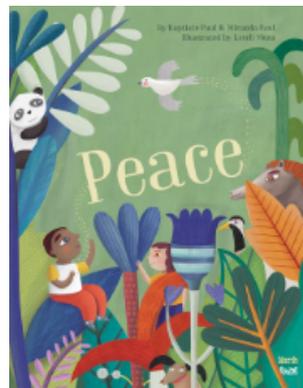
demco Thursday, March 12, 2026
 Garden Grove High School
 11271 Stanford Avenue
 1-3 pm
 Rosan Cable
rcable@ggusd.us
 Library Office: 714-663-6197
Book Care Workshop
 With the Book Doctor, Kimberly Young
 • Hands-on training
 • Tailored repair and processing instruction
 • Free book care resources
bit.ly/bookdoctorgghs031226



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



September 15th - October 15th
Hispanic Heritage Month



September 21st
International Day of Peace



September 23rd
Sign Languages Day

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.
- CDE also released [P-3 progression for Literacy and Language](#), aligning the PTKLF's and CA Common Core Standards.



Tech Corner

High-Quality Passages for Free

ReadWorks offers thousands of free, research-based reading passages and comprehension questions. Teachers can assign digitally or print, and passages are searchable by grade level, Lexile, or topic—perfect for differentiation.

The logo for ReadWorks.org, featuring the text "ReadWorks.org" in white on a blue rectangular background.

Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services

To subscribe to our newsletter scan the QR code below

