



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: December 23, 2025
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals, Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum and Instruction, Supervisors, Instructional Coaches and Teachers
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning

LEARning about Literacy Series

As part of the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) ongoing commitment to advancing literacy instruction, the NJDOE is pleased to announce a series of professional learning opportunities designed to support educators and families across the state in strengthening literacy instruction through evidence-based practices.

The *LEARning About Literacy* series will include family workshops held this winter, followed by a two weeklong Expert Series in March 2026, featuring nationally recognized researchers and practitioners. Sessions will highlight universal literacy screening, data-driven decision making, and instructional strategies that promote equitable literacy outcomes for all learners.

LEARning about Literacy: Expert Series (March 2026)

All workshops will be held virtually from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Week 1 – Universal Literacy Screening and Assessment Practices

- *March 2: Universal Screening of Spoken Language – Tim DeLuca, PhD, CCC-SLP*
- *March 3: Using Data & Instructional Coherence to Inform NJTSS-ER – Stephanie A. Stollar, PhD*
- *March 4: Screen to Teach: Multilingual Learners – Elsa Cárdenas-Hagan, EdD, CCC-SLP, CALT-QI*
- *March 5: Honoring African American English within Literacy Assessment & Instruction – Ramona T. Pittman, PhD*

Week 2 – Literacy Instructional Practices

- *March 9: Structured Literacy for Multilingual Learners: What Every Educator Should Know– Elsa Cárdenas-Hagan, EdD, CCC-SLP, CALT-QI*
- *March 10: Critical Contributors to Adolescent Comprehension – Julia Salamone, MEd*
- *March 11: Leveraging the Reciprocity of Reading and Writing– Charles W. Haynes, EdD, CCC-SLP*
- *March 12: Language and Literacy Instruction for Nonspeaking and Minimally Speaking Children – Tim DeLuca, PhD, CCC-SLP*

Please register using the NJDOE's [Event Registration Page](#). Events will also be recorded and added to the NJDOE's Learning Management System for future access.

Family Workshops

All workshops will be held virtually in partnership with the Rutgers' New Jersey Tiered System of Support Early Reading team from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

- January 8: Session 1 – Universal Screening
- January 15: Session 2 – Instruction
- January 22: Session 3 – Tier 2 & 3 Intervention and Progress Monitoring

Please register using the Rutgers [Zoom registration link](#).

Contact Information

Please email the Office of Learning Equity & Academic Recovery at LEAR@doe.nj.gov with questions regarding upcoming LEARning about Literacy opportunities and visit the [LEAR website](#) for more information.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group