



# 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](mailto: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