

#ScienceOfReading Campaign: A Call to Action for Educators

We call on educators to embrace opportunities to learn about the Science of Reading (SoR), reflect upon their practice, and challenge approaches to reading instruction that are not aligned with the research evidence.

We know that educators crave learning opportunities that will build their knowledge, strengthen their practice, and promote increased student achievement.

For decades, educators have been sidelined from the findings derived from thousands of research studies that have revealed both how the brain learns to read and write, and why some students struggle. Teacher preparation programs, professional development, and <u>published materials</u> have generally not been designed with findings from scientific research in mind. Therefore, educators miss out on learning the most effective approaches that will best advantage all learners in all areas of reading and writing.

It is time for educators to get involved. Below are three actions educators can take to Bring the Science of Reading to Light:

- 1. Learn About the Science of Reading: No matter what level of familiarity you have with the Science of Reading, this learning is never done. Our <u>YouTube channel</u> and the <u>Knowledge Base page</u> on The Reading League's website offer multiple resources for self-directed learning. Whether you are new to the Science of Reading and looking for <u>a place to start</u> or years into your journey, there is always another compelling facet to discover.
- 2. Reflect Upon Practice: When we know better, we do better. As you continue to learn more about the Science of Reading, reflect upon your current practice and ask yourself, "Does this align with what I've learned? Should I keep doing this? Is there a more effective or more efficient way to reach my teaching/assessment objectives?" Keep in mind that adding a layer of evidence-based instruction to a core that is at odds with the research will not help students to achieve maximum success.
- 3. Challenge Approaches to Reading Instruction That Are Not Aligned With the Research Evidence:

 Sometimes, educators are mandated to use materials and approaches that they know are not evidencealigned. We encourage you and your like-minded colleagues to initiate thoughtful dialogue with key decisionmakers in your schools. Dialogue should include a proposal to help lead transformational change that will give
 students the best chance at literacy.

The Reading League recognizes and honors educators' efforts to *Bring the Science of Reading to Light*. The Science of Reading is for *you*.

To learn more, join us and become a member today.