

THE 9TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE READING LEAGUE

OCTOBER 8-10, 2025 • HILTON CHICAGO • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION INFORMATION
11:30 am - 1:30 pm	8th Street North Lobby	Check-in
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Grand Ballroom Salon A-5 * Salon A-1	Nancy Hennessy and Julia Salamone <i>The Comprehension Cohesion Connection: The Role of Cohesive Ties & Connectives</i> Shayne Piasta and Beth Phillips <i>Project OPAL: Identifying Evidence-Based Practices for Optimizing Phonological Awareness Learning</i> Margaret Goldberg and Jamie Allardice <i>Leading (Not Just Managing): A Principal's Path From the Periphery to Practice</i>
Breakout Session 1	Salon A-2	Dionna Latimer-Hearn <i>The (B)lack Narrative: Disrupting Deficit Ideologies in Literacy and Language</i>
	Salon A-3	Julie Burtscher Brown and Katie Keown <i>Dignity and Agency: Supporting Adolescent Striving Readers Across ALL Tiers of Instruction</i>
	Bldv. 2nd Floor	Yvette Manns <i>From Sounds to Words: Teaching Phonics With Precision and Purpose</i>
	Salon A-4	Janee' Butler <i>Teaching ALL Words Across Grade Levels: High-Frequency Words and Beyond</i>
	International Ballroom North	Anita Archer <i>Design of Explicit Instruction: High-Leverage Practices That Promote Learning</i>
	International Ballroom South	Zaretta Hammond <i>Achieving Equitable Literacy With the Science of Learning in Grades 5 to 9</i>
3:00 pm - 4:15 pm	Grand Ballroom * Salon A-5 * Salon A-1	Julie Washington <i>The Structure of a Reading Revolution</i> Ioulia Kovelman <i>The Bilingual Reading Brain: From Decoding to Reading Comprehension</i> Jamey Peavler <i>Building Your Scientifically-Based ELA Block</i>
Breakout Session 2	Salon A-2	Angela Hanlin and Patti Montgomery <i>Leadership Matters! The Correct Professional Development Is Critical</i>
	Salon A-3	Mitchell Brookins <i>Unlocking Student Potential: The Writing-Reading Feedback Cycle</i>
	Bldv. 2nd Floor	Michelle Elia <i>MTSS and Adolescent Literacy: Planning for Literacy Interventions to Accelerate Growth</i>
	Salon A-4	Joan Kelley and MaryKate DeSantis <i>Engaging Families to (Realistically!) Boost Reading Outcomes</i>
	International Ballroom North	Pam Kastner <i>Integrate, Don't Isolate! Linguistic Bridges That Connect Sounds, Symbols, and Meaning in Early Literacy</i>
	International Ballroom South	Lacey Robinson, Dale Webster, and Maya Valencia Goodall <i>Leveraging Structured Literacy for the Multilingualism Journey</i>
4:15 pm - 6:30 pm	Salon D	Welcome Reception Hosted by The Reading League Chapters

An * indicates a presentation that may appeal to attendees who desire more advanced content.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION INFORMATION
7:00 am - 8:00 am	8th Street North Lobby	Check-In and Breakfast
8:00 am - 8:15 am	International Ballroom	Welcome and Opening Remarks
8:15 am - 9:15 am	International Ballroom	Hilderbrand Pelzer III Keynote <i>The Weight of Our Calling: Balancing Urgency, Empowerment, and the Connection Between Literacy and Incarceration</i>
9:20 am - 10:30 am	International Ballroom	Educators of Color Cohort <i>Educators' of Color Perspectives on the Implementation of Structured Literacy Approaches to Teaching Reading</i>
11:00 am - 12:15 pm Breakout Session 3	Grand Ballroom	Lindsay Kemeny <i>Rock Your Literacy Block: Mighty Moves to Organize Your Day and Optimize Student Learning</i>
	Salon A-5	Katie Pace Miles and Molly Ness <i>Making Words Stick: The What, Why, and How of Orthographic Mapping</i>
	Salon A-1	Lyn Stone <i>Trick or Treat? What 'Tricky' Words Show Us About the Whole System</i>
	Salon A-2	Joan Sedita <i>Adolescent Writing and The Writing Rope Framework: Evidence-Based Teaching Suggestions for Grades 5-12</i>
	Salon A-3	Leslie Laud <i>Bring the Science of Writing to Your Classroom in Fun & Engaging Ways</i>
12:15 pm - 1:45 pm	Blvd. 2nd Floor	Malt Joshi, Emily Binks-Cantrell, and Taylor Seymour <i>Spelling: The Foundation of Reading and the Greatest Ornament of Writing</i>
	Salon A-4	Dawn Brookhart <i>Getting F-I-I-T by Leading With Purpose: Be the Change and Cultivate System Success</i>
12:15 pm - 1:45 pm	Salon C	Lunch and Exhibition Viewing
1:45 pm - 3:00 pm Breakout Session 4	Grand Ballroom *	David Share <i>Blueprint for a Universal Theory of Learning to Read: The Combinatorial Model</i>
	Salon A-5	Anita Archer <i>Delivery of Explicit Instruction: High-Leverage Practices that Promote Engagement and Learning</i>
	Salon A-1	Kay Wijekumar, Kacee Lambright, Pilar Sierra, Javier Garza, and Carmen Langston <i>Astronomical Comprehension for Every Child</i>
	Salon A-2	Adrea Truckenmiller <i>The Role of Sentence Structure in Reading and Writing Assessment and Instruction</i>
	Salon A-3	TBD <i>Partnering With The Reading League: Connecting Transformative School Practices With TRL's Support</i>
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Blvd. 2nd Floor	Carey Wright <i>From Mississippi to Maryland: Implementing Statewide Literacy Reform That Gets Results</i>
	Salon A-4	Jennifer Pendergrass, Tabatha Tierce, and Dave Chiesa <i>When Worlds Collide: Bridging WIDA and the Science of Reading in ESOL Programs</i>
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Salon C	Refreshments and Exhibition Viewing
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm Breakout Session 5	Grand Ballroom	Zaretta Hammond <i>Achieving Equitable Literacy With the Science of Learning</i>
	Salon A-5	Amy Siracusano and Jill Rogers <i>Handwriting: The Research, Impact, and Instruction</i>
	Salon A-1	Elsa Cárdenas Hagan <i>Writing Development and Instruction for Multilingual Students</i>
	Salon A-2	Young-Suk Kim <i>Empowering Literacy Instruction: Insights From the Science of Reading-Writing Connections</i>
	Salon A-3	TBD <i>Bringing the Science of Reading to Life: Successes, Challenges, and Lessons From the Field</i>
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm	Blvd. 2nd Floor	Carol Tolman <i>How Spelling Supports Reading: Implications for Instruction</i>
	Salon A-4	Vivek Ramakrishnan <i>Beyond the Hype: The Opportunities and Limitations of AI in Structured Literacy</i>

FRIDAY OCTOBER 10

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION INFORMATION
7:00 am - 8:00 am	Salon C	Breakfast and Exhibition Viewing
8:15 am - 9:30 am	Grand Ballroom	Carolyn Strom <i>Expanding Word Families: Integrating Linguistic Neighbors to Strengthen Neural Connections in the Reading Brain</i>
	Salon A-5	Antonio Fierro and Julie Washington <i>Translanguaging and Building on the Linguistic Assets of All Students</i>
	Salon A-1	Kay Wijekumar and Herbert W. Turner III <i>Aligning Standards, Systems, and Strategies to Improve Comprehension</i>
	Salon A-2	Jeanne Schopf <i>Secondary Literacy Leadership: Leading With Impact; Driving Change, Inspiring Growth</i>
Breakout Session 6	Salon A-3	Devin Kearns <i>The Causes of Reading Difficulties and How to Help Students Who Have Them</i>
	Blvd. 2nd Floor	Amanda VanDerHeyden <i>Follow the Science of Instruction</i>
	Salon A-4	Ryan Lee-James <i>Speech, Language, and Literacy: Acquisition, Disorder, and Equitable Practices for Educators</i>
9:45 am - 11:00 am	Grand Ballroom	Maryanne Wolf <i>"We DO Word-Work": Teaching Expanded Foundational Skills and Deep Reading in a Digital World</i>
	Salon A-5	Jessica Toste <i>Word Connections: Intervention to Support Word-Level Reading Skills for Students in the Intermediate Grades</i>
	Salon A-1	Kari Kurto <i>Bilingual Literacy Instruction: Leveraging Linguistic Assets With Contrastive Analysis</i>
	Salon A-2	Robert Rogers, Eiman Abdulrahman, Brett Tingley, and Beth Rivera <i>Session Details Coming Soon</i>
	Salon A-3	Francesca Smith and Claire Gunner <i>Leveraging Multilingual Learners' Assets for Effective Foundational Skills Instruction</i>
	Blvd. 2nd Floor	Matthew Burns <i>How Do I Know if The Reading Intervention Actually Aligns With the Science of Reading?</i>
Breakout Session 7	Salon A-4	Ben Zulauf and Martin Mireles <i>Developing a District Language and Literacy Instructional Strategy Framework</i>
11:15 pm - 12:45 pm	Salon C	Lunch and Exhibition Viewing
12:45 pm - 2:15 pm	International Ballroom	David Share Keynote <i>The Self-Teaching Theory of Learning to Read</i>
2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	Grand Ballroom	Jan Hasbrouck <i>Reading Fluency: It's All About Comprehension—and Motivation!</i>
	Salon A-5	Stephanie Stollar and Sarah Brown <i>Leveraging Grade-Level Teams Within MTSS for School-Wide Reading Improvement</i>
	Salon A-1	Michelle Storie and Sheila Clonan <i>Embedding Our Understanding and Assessments of Dyslexia in the Science of Reading</i>
	Salon A-2	Ellen Kappus <i>Implement Two Evidence-Based Vocabulary Instructional Routines With Learning Science</i>
	Salon A-3	Simone Gibson and DJ Bolger <i>From Policy to Practice: Maryland's Lessons in Implementing the Science of Reading</i>
	Blvd. 2nd Floor	Melissa Jones Bromenshenkel, Cara McDermott-Fasy, and Doreen Mazzye <i>Educator Preparation: Navigating the Complexities of Science of Reading Reform</i>
Breakout Session 8	Salon A-4	Laura Heneghan <i>Collaborative Solutions in Special Education Law: Advancing Reading Services Together</i>

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