

# Conference Agenda

## Day 1: Wednesday, September 30, 2026

**2026**  
10th Annual Conference of  
**THE READING LEAGUE**

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CT	8th Street North Lobby	Check-in
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Location	Session Title	Speakers
<b>Breakout Session #1   1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. CT</b>		
Continental ABC	Beyond “I Do, We Do”: The Power of Rich and Varied Practice	Carolyn Brown and Carolyn Strom
Salon A-5	Spelling Is Not an Add-On: The Role of Spelling in Evidence-Based Reading Instruction	Ramona Pittman
Salon A-1	The Reading Brain in the Age of AI: An Evidence-Based Perspective	Ola Ozernov-Palchik
Salon A-2	Screening Multilingual Students: Taking a Deep Dive and Understanding the Complexity	Lillian Durán
Salon A-3/4	High Impact Tutoring: What, Why, How	Katie Pace Miles
Blvd. 2nd Floor	From Research to Reality: Teacher Leadership for Secondary Literacy Improvement	Julie Burtscher Brown
International Ballroom North	Design of Explicit Instruction: High Leverage Practices that Promote Learning	Anita Archer
International Ballroom South	Multilingual Students: Screening, Identification, and Treatment of Language and Literacy Disorders	Elsa Cárdenas-Hagan

<b>Breakout Session #2   2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. CT</b>		
Continental ABC	“Deep Reading” in Multicomponential Intervention: An Act of Resistance and a Method of Hope in a Digital/AI Culture	Maryanne Wolf
Salon A-5	From Research to Results: Building Grade-1 Reading Proficiency Through Systems-Aligned Structured Literacy	Kristen Wynn
Salon A-1	Teaching ALL Words Across Grade Levels: High-Frequency Words and Beyond	Janee’ Butler
Salon A-2	Language - The Heart of Reading	Charles Hulme
Salon A-3/4	Beyond the Score: Building a Purposeful and Comprehensive Assessment System Within MTSS	Renata Archie

Blvd. 2nd Floor	Structured Literacy: A School District's Journey	Grant Rivera
International Ballroom North	An Introduction to the developmental English Lexicon Project (d-ELP)	Don Compton, Aviva Coyne-Green, and Tina Zampitella
International Ballroom South	The Right to Read Starts at Home: Family Advocacy and the Science of Reading	Kareem Weaver

**Breakout Session #3 | 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. CT**

Continental ABC	Handwriting Matters: Aligning Transcription Instruction to How Students Learn	Pam Kastner
Salon A-5	How Can You Make Tier 1 Better? A Practical Guide for Aligning with Research and Sustaining Success	Devin Kearns
Salon A-1	Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Does the Science of Reading Apply?	Chris Lemons
Salon A-2	<i>Coming Soon</i>	TRL Led Session after Charles Hulme
Salon A-3/4	Creating a Coherent Infrastructure for Strong Literacy Implementation	Amanda Nickerson and Carolyn Turner
Blvd. 2nd Floor	From Affirmation to Action: Strategic Foundational Literacy Instruction for Black Language Speakers	Jasmine Rogers
International Ballroom North	Solving the Reading Comprehension Mystery by Addressing the Root Causes	Kay Wijekumar
International Ballroom South	Scaffolding Complex Texts: Preparing Readers to Grow Into Complexity	Mitchell Brookins

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. CT	Salon D	Welcome Reception Hosted by The Reading League Chapters
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# Conference Agenda

## Day 2: Thursday, October 1, 2026

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. CT	8th Street North Lobby	Check-in
8:00 a.m. - 8:20 a.m. CT	International Ballroom	The Reading League Opening Remarks
8:20 a.m. - 9:20 a.m. CT		<b>Opening Keynote: The Dignity of Learning in the Era of AI</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Adam Kronk
9:20 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. CT		<b>Educators of Color Conference Cohort Panel: Higher Education Perspectives on the Science of Reading</b> <b>Moderator:</b> Altheria Caldera <b>Panelists:</b> Kellee Dillard Watkins, JaVaughn Hardaway, Towanda Harris, Tiffany M. Nyachae, and Keshia Megie-Thompson

Location	Session Title	Speakers
<b>Breakout Session #4   10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. CT</b>		
Continental ABC	Teaching for Results: Using High-Impact Instructional Routines for Early Reading Success	Stephanie Stollar, Sarah Brown, Kelly Powell-Smith, and Beth Madden
Salon A-5	Adolescent Literacy: Disciplines Matter Mightily	Miah Daughtery
Salon A-1	The K-12 Morphology Toolkit: Differentiating Vocabulary Across Tiers 1, 2, and 3	Heather Ballantine
Salon A-2	From Strategy to System: Transforming Schools Through Collective Instructional Leadership and Coaching	Dawn Brookhart and Daryl Michel
Salon A-3/4	Making Words Stick: The What, Why, and How of Orthographic Mapping	Katie Pace Miles and Molly Ness
Blvd. 2nd Floor	From Alignment to Impact: Coherent Higher Education Systems for Interdisciplinary Science of Reading Implementation	Cara McDermott-Fasy and Doreen Mazzye

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CT	Salon B&C	Lunch
	Salon D	Exhibition Viewing
	Salon A Foyer	Author Signing With <i>TBD</i>

**Breakout Session #5 | 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. CT**

Continental ABC	Strengthening Reading Comprehension: What Research Says and What Educators Can Do	Amy Elleman
Salon A-5	Collaborating for Change: Building Reading Foundations for All Through Everyday Practices	Lakeshia Johnson
Salon A-1	Morphology: It's Not All in Your Head!	Sue Hegland
Salon A-2	From Policy to Practice: Specific Strategies for Strengthening Evidence-Aligned Reading Instruction by Embedding Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Practices	Altheria Caldera and Kari Kurto
Salon A-3/4	Rebuilding Students' Learning Power for Reading Development	Zaretta Hammond
Blvd. 2nd Floor	Breaking Through Resistance: A Human Centered Approach for Leaders and Coaches	Becca Silver

2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. CT	Salon D	Exhibition Viewing
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**Breakout Session #6 | 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. CT**

Continental ABC	The Opportunities and Limitations of AI in Foundational Skills Instruction	Vivek Ramakrishnan
Salon A-5	Leveraging Multilingual Learners' Assets for Engaging SOR-Aligned Instruction	Claire Gunner and Francesca Smith
Salon A-1	Engaging Families (Realistically!) to Boost Reading Outcomes	Joan Kelley and MaryKate DeSantis
Salon A-2	Clarifying Syllable Instruction: Teaching With Precision and Flexibility	Yvette Manns
Salon A-3/4	Respect the Dialect®: Honoring Language, Elevating Literacy	Dionna Latimer-Hearn
Blvd. 2nd Floor	Understanding the Relationship Between Word Recognition Skills and Reading Comprehension for Adolescents: Applying Evidence-Based Practices to Improve Outcomes	Michael Solis

3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. CT	Salon D	Exhibition Viewing
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# Conference Agenda

## Day 3: Friday, October 2, 2026

**2026**  
10th Annual Conference of  
**THE READING LEAGUE**

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. CT	Salon D	Exhibition Viewing
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Location	Session Title	Speakers
<b>Breakout Session #7   8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. CT</b>		
Continental ABC	Delivery of Explicit Instruction: High-Leverage Practices that Promote Engagement and Learning	Anita Archer and Amanda VanDerHeyden
Salon A-5	From the Eyes to the Brain: What Eye Movements Tell Us About How Reading Works	Adrian Staub and Ryan Buggy
Salon A-1	From Policy to Practice: Michigan's Collaborative Framework for Literacy Networks	Rebecca Miles, Kim St. Martin, Michelle Goaley, and Danesha Rawles-Smith
Salon A-2	The Science of Biliteracy	Callie Lowenstein
Salon A-3/4	Reading Comprehension: What's Syntax Got to Do With It?	Nancy Eberhardt and Margie Gillis
Blvd. 2nd Floor	Teacher Language as Instructional Leverage: How Classroom Talk Shapes Reading Development and Supports Effective Feedback	Jill Pentimonti

<b>Breakout Session #8   9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. CT</b>		
Continental ABC	What's Next for the Science of Reading? Beyond the Science of Reading Policy Checklist	Kymyona Burk
Salon A-5	From Cognitive Science to Classroom Assessments: Eye-Tracking Follow-Up Session	Ryan Buggy
Salon A-1	From Siloed Support to Systematic Alignment: Using Data-Based Individualization to Strengthen Intensive Reading Intervention	Genevieve Thomas
Salon A-2	Successful Transitions From Early and Emergent Literacy Into Early Reading and Writing: Leading Literacy Learning Through Oral Language	Lucy Hart Paulson

Salon A-3/4	Writing Rocks! Using POW to Create WOW-Worthy Writing	Lindsay Kemeny
Blvd. 2nd Floor	Advancing Policy and Practice: The National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities' Leadership in Evidence-Based Advocacy	Elsa Cárdenas-Hagan, Lindsay Kubatzky, and Dr. Monica McHale Small

**Breakout Session #9 | 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. CT**

Continental ABC	Why the Big Six Should Actually Be the Big Five: The Case for Language as a Unifying Construct in Reading Instruction	Pam Snow
Salon A-5	The Challenge of Big Words: Instructional Practices to Support Multisyllabic Word Reading and Spelling	Brennan Chandler and Jessica Toste
Salon A-1	What Are We Willing to Stop: Leading Deimplementation in Literacy Systems	Marisa Ramirez Stukey
Salon A-2	Insights From a Master Teacher: Supporting Multilingual Learners in the Classroom	Magdalena Zavalía and Tina Tom
Salon A-3/4	Dyslexia Defined: Unpacking the Review IDA Definition of Dyslexia	Tim Odegard
Blvd. 2nd Floor	The Road to Fluent Reading: What, Why, and How?	Holly Lane

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CT	Salon B&C	Lunch
	Salon D	Exhibition Viewing
	Salon A Foyer	Author Signing With <i>TBD</i>

1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. CT	International Ballroom	<b>Closing Keynote: Content-Rich Classroom Conversations That Build Language Comprehension</b> <b>Speaker: Sonia Cabell</b>
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