

10th Annual Conference of THE READING LEAGUE

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

STRANDS

- Linguistically & Culturally Responsive Instruction
- Science of Teaching & Learning
- Leadership & Coaching

- Teaching Foundational Reading Skills
- Dyslexia and Intensive Intervention
- Advanced Research

- Teaching Language, Comprehension & Writing
- Families, Communities & Policy
- Higher Education

- Adolescent Literacy
- Artificial Intelligence
- Assessment

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKERS
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CT	8th Street North Lobby	Check-in	
BREAKOUT SESSION 1 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. CT	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 Burtischer 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
BREAKOUT SESSION 2 2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. CT	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 and Norma Hancock
	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	●● Language - The Heart of Reading - Classroom Application Follow Up Session	Jessica Pasik, Audrey Goninan, and Kari Kurto
	Salon A-3/4	● Creating a Coherent Infrastructure for Strong Literacy Implementation	Amanda Nickerson
	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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Thursday, October 1, 2026

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKERS
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. CT	8th Street North Lobby	Check-in	
8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. CT	International Ballroom	The Reading League Opening Remarks	
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. CT	International Ballroom	● Opening Keynote: The Dignity of Learning in the Era of AI	Adam Kronk
9:30 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. CT	International Ballroom	●● Educators of Color Conference Cohort Panel: Higher Education Perspectives on the Science of Reading	Moderator: Altheria Caldera Panelists: Kellee Dillard Watkins, JaVaughn Hardaway, Towanda Harris, Tiffany M. Nyachae, and Keshia Megie-Thompson

BREAKOUT SESSION 4 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. CT	Continental ABC	● Teaching for Results: Using High-Impact Instructional Routines for Early Reading Success	Stephanie Stollar, Sarah Brown, Kelly Powell-Smith, & 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: Anita Archer, Mitchell Brookins, Sonia Cabell, Elsa Cárdenas-Hagan, Marisa Ramirez Stukey, Becca Silver, Maryanne Wolf, and Paige Pullen	
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	
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	

Friday, October 2, 2026

TIME	LOCATION	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKERS
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. CT	Salon D	Exhibition Viewing	
BREAKOUT SESSION 7 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. CT	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 DeNesha Rawls-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
BREAKOUT SESSION 8 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. CT	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, Elisabeth Lamoureux, and Michelle Hill
	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 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	●● The Canon of Literacy: A Three Sciences Framework for Coherent Instructional Decision-Making	Paige Pullen
	Salon A-2	●● Insights From a Master Teacher: Supporting Multilingual Learners in the Classroom	Magdalena Zavalia and Tina Tom
	Salon A-3/4	●● Dyslexia Defined: Unpacking the Revised 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 Heather Ballantine, Dawn Brookhart, Sarah Brown, Altheria Caldera, Zaretta Hammond, Sue Hegland, Lindsay Kemeny, Beth Madden, Yvette Manns, Daryl Michel, Kelly Powell-Smith, and Steph Stollar	
1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. CT	International Ballroom	● Closing Keynote: Content-Rich Classroom Conversations That Build Language Comprehension	Sonia Cabell

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