

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	Janeé’ 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	

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	 Delivery of Explicit Instruction: High-Leverage Practices That Promote Engagement and Learning	Anita Archer
	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	  The Science behind Effective Instruction: Listen to the Scientist. Listen to the Teacher.	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
BREAKOUT SESSION 8 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. CT	Blvd. 2nd Floor	  Teacher Language as Instructional Leverage: How Classroom Talk Shapes Reading Development and Supports Effective Feedback	Jill Pentimonti
	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	●● From Launch to Lasting Change: Aligning Coaching, Video, and Professional Learning for Coherent Practice	Marisa Ramirez Stukey & Carla Stanford
	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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