



Alaska Department of
Education & Early Development

May 2026 CLSD 2024: Technical Assistance & Updates

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development sent this bulletin at 05/21/2026 01:12 PM AKDT



Alaska Reads
#akreads

CLSD 2024: Technical Assistance & Updates

Monthly News From Your AK Reads Team

May 2026

GMS Update

General Information

CLSD Reimbursements:

Quarterly reimbursements are due 30 days after the end of each quarter: October 31, January 31, April 30, and **July 31**. Final expenditure reports are due July 31 for State General funding and August 15 for federal funding.

Announcements

Save the Dates: Professional Learning Opportunities



— Inspire. Empower. Write. 0=

WRITE NOW

A Keys to Literacy Conference
In Partnership with Alaska DEED

**FREE ALL ACCESS
CONFERENCE PASS**
August 10, 2026
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM AKST

SPONSORED BY ALASKA DEED



REGISTER TODAY!

Get ready to spark your passion for writing instruction at Alaska DEED Write Now 2026—a high-energy, full-day virtual conference designed to connect Alaska PreK-12 educators with leading voices in evidence-based writing instruction.

Join us as we start with a timely keynote from Joan Sedita and wrap up the day with a lively panel discussion featuring literacy experts.

Write Now: Alaska, Free Summer PD Aligned with CLSD Goals

CLSD subgrantees and district teams are encouraged to register for Write Now: Alaska 2026, a free virtual conference taking place August 10, 2026.

This event directly supports the professional learning goals at the core of your CLSD work.

The full-day program includes:

- Keynote: "The Writing Rope: Integrating Reading and Writing Instruction," Joan Sedita, Keys to Literacy
- From Talk to Text: Evidence-Based Writing for Multilingual Learners, Brock & Calderón
- Syntax as a Multi-Tool for Reading Comprehension and Writing in Grades 5–12, Dr. Michelle Elia
- The Science of Handwriting: Where Reading, Writing, and Learning Connect, Dr. Cheryl Lundy Swift
- Leading the Shift to Effective Writing Instruction, Pati Montgomery, Keys to Literacy

All sessions are recorded with closed captions. This event counts toward your team's professional learning hours and complements the structured literacy focus of your CLSD grant activities.

Free registration, open to all CLSD district team members.

Register now: keystoliteracy.com/alaska-deed-write-now

Current Happenings

Communities of Practice (COP)

We look forward to the participation of your team or district representative at these required collaborative gatherings.

- **Delivery:** Zoom Webinars hosted by DEED and Glean Education
- **Day & Time:** Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm*
 - May 21, 2026 - Optional Budget Webinar Q & A
 - May 26, 2026 - Looking Back & Looking Forward

* Dates subject to change due to extenuating circumstances.

CLSD Spring Convening

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) recently hosted the Comprehensive State Literacy Development (CLSD) grant Spring Convening on Thursday, April 30, 2026, at the Denai'na Center to kick off the Science of Reading Symposium in Anchorage. At the day-long event, DEED brought together district leaders and educators from CLSD subgrantees across the state for a full day focused on literacy, intervention systems, professional learning, and student outcomes.

The event featured keynote speaker Dr. Pam Kastner, who presented “The Foundation Before the Fix: Investing in Tier 1 Literacy,” emphasizing the importance of strengthening core instruction before relying on intervention supports. Throughout the day, participants engaged in reflection activities, collaborative discussions, and breakout sessions designed to help districts strengthen literacy systems and improve outcomes for students across Alaska.

Attendees had the opportunity to participate in a variety of breakout sessions centered on high-impact literacy practices, professional learning systems, MTSS implementation, tutoring supports, and district data analysis. Sessions were led by organizations including Teaching Strategies GOLD, Greenfield Learning, Amplify, Curriculum Associates, Marzano Research, and the Association of Alaska School Boards. Topics ranged from designing effective professional development and analyzing literacy data to strengthening intervention systems and building scalable tutoring programs. Participants also explored how districts can intentionally plan for the 2026–2027 school year through data-informed decision-making and collaborative planning.

Feedback from participants highlighted both the quality of the presentations and the relevance of the learning opportunities. One attendee shared, “I really enjoyed Pam Kastner’s sessions. I would love some time to collaborate with my team regarding what we learned and how we can apply the learning to our literacy plan.” Another participant commented, “Excellent Job! I learned a lot.” Overall, the convening provided valuable opportunities for educators to connect, reflect on current practices, and gather actionable strategies to strengthen literacy instruction and student support systems throughout Alaska’s CLSD districts.



Live UFLI training available via Zoom! This session covers implementation, tools and resources, progress monitoring, differentiation, and more.

Single Session:

- Wednesday, August 26 from 8:30 AM–12:00 PM

Training can be projected on a screen if staff want to sit together, or individually join from separate locations.

Sign up contact: melinda.krise@alaska.gov.

Lexia LETRS for Elementary Educators Professional Learning

Participant Information



The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) provides evidence-based instruction grounded in the science of reading at no cost to eligible elementary educators.



Lexia® LETRS® for Elementary Educators

equips teachers with the essential knowledge and skills needed to master the fundamentals of literacy instruction, strengthen classroom practice, and drive meaningful, long-term improvements in student learning.



Earn your Alaska Reads Act Endorsement

Participants can earn the Alaska Reads Act endorsement in as little as 6–9 months.*

This course of study includes eight units of instruction over a two-year license. To complete the course, participants must read the manual, complete the online activities, and attend all live professional learning sessions.

*To earn the Alaska Reads Act endorsement, participants must successfully pass the LETRS training (which requires mastery of 80% or higher on all online assessments).

Sign up and make the commitment to improve reading proficiency and transform student lives.

Fill out the pre-registration form to secure your seat in an upcoming LETRS cohort.

Seats are limited, so reserve your spot now.



lexialearning.com/ak-letrs

Lexia All for Literacy

Lexia LETRS for Early Childhood Educators Professional Learning

Participant Information



The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) provides evidence-based instruction grounded in the science of reading at no cost to eligible early childhood educators.



Lexia® LETRS® for Early Childhood Educators

provides deep knowledge of literacy instruction for the youngest learners. The more children know about language and literacy before they begin kindergarten and first grade, the better equipped they are to succeed in reading and beyond.



Earn your Alaska Reads Act Endorsement

Participants can earn the Early Education Lead endorsement in as little as 2 months.*

This course of study includes four units of instruction over a one-year license. To complete the course, participants must read the manual, complete the online activities, and attend all live professional learning sessions.

*To earn the Alaska Reads Act endorsement, participants must successfully pass the LETRS training (which requires mastery of 80% or higher on all online assessments).

Sign up and make the commitment to improve reading proficiency and transform student lives.

Registration closes June 1.

Seats are limited, so reserve your spot now.



lexialearning.com/ak-letrs

Lexia All for Literacy

Partner-Provided Courses - *NEW!*



The [Virtual Learning Consortium \(VLC\) Professional Development](#) section now offers a [partner-provided catalog](#) of asynchronous courses designed to support educators with high-quality professional learning. Ideal for individual learning or staff-led PD, these courses allow educators to engage at their own pace while building knowledge and skills in key areas such as literacy, math, behavior, progress monitoring, and intervention systems

Available Courses:

- Behavior Supports for Intensive Intervention
- Behavior Progress Monitoring: Selecting Target Behaviors, Aligning Tools, and Creating a Plan
- Behavior Progress Monitoring: Analyzing Data and Making Decisions
- Demystifying the Science of Reading: Understanding the Reading Brain and the Structured Literacy Approach
- Features of Explicit Instruction
- Graphing and Analyzing Academic Progress Monitoring Data
- Intensive Intervention in Mathematics
- Intensive Intervention in Reading
- Introduction to Intensive Intervention
- What is Progress Monitoring?

These courses provide practical strategies, research-based practices, and tools that can be immediately applied to support student learning.

VLC Digital Library - New Fluency Webinars!

Fluency: Evidence-Based Strategies for K-8 Classrooms



Kate Winn
Alaska Science of Reading Symposium
April 2024

[Evidence-Based Fluency Strategies for K-8](#)

Kate Winn provides this dynamic presentation designed to deepen understanding of reading fluency. Participants will explore the:

- definition of fluency
- how to effectively assess it
- commonly used practices to phased out
- research-based fluency strategies

[PowerPoint Handouts](#) included.



[Fluency & Vocabulary as Bridges to Comprehension](#)

webinar by Melissa Loftus & Lori Sappington highlight how fluency and vocabulary strengthen reading comprehension.

Learn how to:

- build a fluency plan
- teach vocabulary effectively
- apply research-backed strategies that connect word recognition to deeper understanding

[PowerPoint handouts](#) and QR codes for podcasts and printable resources extend learning.

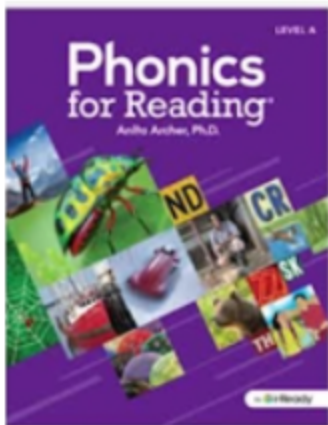


[The Heroics of Fluency Instruction](#)

Elizabeth Bassford webinar explores the essential role of fluency in reading development. Learn what current research says about fluency's purpose—not just as a metric, but as a bridge to reading for meaning and comprehension. The session highlights how

- effective fluency instruction accelerates word recognition
- supports morphological awareness
- strengthens overall literacy outcomes.

[PowerPoint handouts](#) are included.

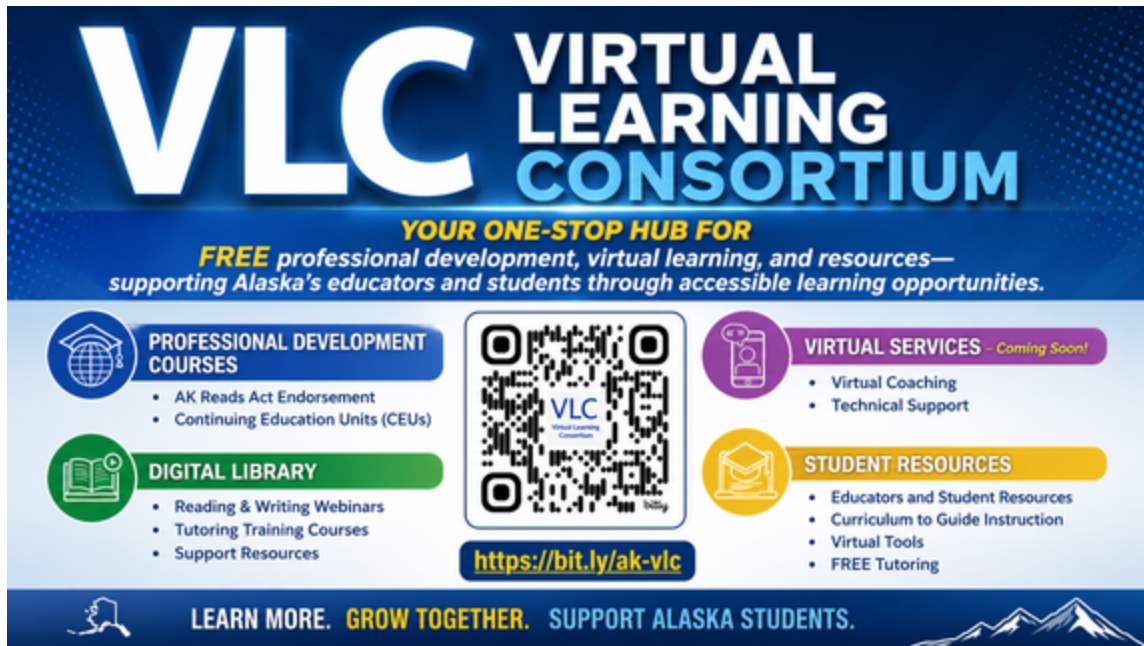


[Phonics for Reading](#)

A program designed for students in **grade 3 and above**

This asynchronous course provides introductory training for the 2024 *Phonics for Reading Intervention Program* with Dr. Anita Archer. The program uses evidence-based strategies to strengthen word recognition, phonemic awareness, and decoding skills, improving reading fluency and comprehension. Phonics for Reading is an approved evidence-based intervention under the Alaska Reads Act for students identified through screening measures.

Participants may earn 2 CEUs by completing the course and its implementation.




VLC VIRTUAL LEARNING CONSORTIUM

YOUR ONE-STOP HUB FOR
FREE professional development, virtual learning, and resources—
 supporting Alaska's educators and students through accessible learning opportunities.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

- AK Reads Act Endorsement
- Continuing Education Units (CEUs)



<https://bit.ly/ak-vlc>

VIRTUAL SERVICES *Coming Soon!*

- Virtual Coaching
- Technical Support

DIGITAL LIBRARY

- Reading & Writing Webinars
- Tutoring Training Courses
- Support Resources

STUDENT RESOURCES

- Educators and Student Resources
- Curriculum to Guide Instruction
- Virtual Tools
- FREE Tutoring

LEARN MORE. GROW TOGETHER. SUPPORT ALASKA STUDENTS.

Reading Research & Resources

[Using Knowledge-Building Curriculum Doesn't Guarantee 'Robust' Reading Comprehension](#)

By Natalie Wexler

Questions on the Reads Act? Email AKReads@alaska.gov

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