



Alaska Department of
Education & Early Development

August 2026 CLSD 2024: Technical Assistance & Updates

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CLSD 2024: Technical Assistance & Updates

Monthly News From Your AK Reads Team

August 2026

State Board of Education (SBOE)

supports a mission of "an excellent education for every student every day."

Priority 1 of Alaska Education Challenge builds on this commitment: Support ALL students to read at grade level by the end of third grade.

SBOE SMART Goal: K–3 Literacy Benchmark Achievement

The number of Kindergarten-Grade 3 students performing at or above benchmark on the literacy screener will increase by 10 percent from the End-of-Year 2026 baseline by End-of-Year 2029, as measured by the mCLASS DIBELS 8 Curriculum-Based Measures.

GMS Update

CLSD Budget & Reimbursement Updates

We are excited to share that we are very close to having all CLSD budgets for FY27 pre-approved! This is a great milestone as we move forward with the new fiscal year and continue supporting successful grant implementation.

FY26 reimbursement requests have also been reviewed, with requests approved or denied as appropriate. Thank you to all CLSD subgrantees for your continued work and attention to grant requirements as we move these important literacy initiatives forward.

Remember: Quarterly reimbursements are due 30 days after the end of each quarter: October 31, January 31, April 30, and July 31.

Announcements

Save the Dates: Professional Learning Opportunities

Alaska Science of Reading Symposium

The 2027 Science of Reading Symposium will take place at the Anchorage / Dena'ina Center — Sunday, May 2 through Tuesday, May 4, 2027. The Alaska Science of Reading Symposium provides CLSD district subgrantees with an opportunity to deepen knowledge, strengthen implementation, and build local capacity to advance CLSD grant initiatives.

Current Happenings

Communities of Practice (COP)

Throughout the 2026–2027 school year, Glean Education will facilitate the annual Community of Practice (COP) for Alaska CLSD subgrantees. Building on our work together last year, these sessions will provide opportunities to deepen learning, connect with colleagues across the state, share successes and challenges, and support implementation of evidence-aligned literacy practices.

Some COP sessions are required convenings, while additional sessions are optional opportunities for continued collaboration and support. More information will be provided at the COP overview webinar on August 25, 2026.

2026–2027 Schedule:

Virtual - Delivery: Zoom Webinars hosted by DEED and Glean Education

- **CLSD Technical Assistance and COP Overview (Required)**
 - Choose **One** Date below:
 - August 25, 3:30–4:30 p.m.
 - September 3, 3:30–4:30 p.m.
- **COP #1: CLSD Fall Virtual Convening (Required)** September 22, 9:00–12:00 p.m.
- *Optional*COP (Topic TBD) — October 20, 3:30–4:30 p.m.
- **COP #2 (Required)**— November 17, 3:30–5:00 p.m.
- *Optional*COP (Topic TBD) — December 8, 3:30–4:30 p.m.
- *Optional*COP (Topic TBD) — January 19, 3:30–5:00 p.m.
- *Optional*COP (Topic TBD) — February 23, 3:30–5:00 p.m.
- **COP #3 (Required)** — April 27, 3:30–5:00 p.m.

In-Person Convening

- **COP #4 (Required): CLSD Spring In-Person Convening**— Saturday, May 1, 2027, 8:30 - 5:00 pm (Anchorage / Dena'ina Center)

Monthly CLSD Leader Meetings with Glean Education

This year, we are excited to provide additional support to CLSD subgrantees as they advance their grant activities and work toward improving student literacy outcomes across their districts. To support this work, CLSD subgrantees will have the opportunity to meet with Glean Education each month for a 45-minute CLSD check-in. Additional information will be shared during the upcoming COP Overview events on August 25 and September 3.



Glean Education's Structured Literacy Coaching® Academy



Elevate your literacy coaching with Glean Education's Virtual Structured Literacy Coaching Academy for Alaskan Educators. Build your knowledge base and coaching confidence by taking a deep dive into research-based coaching approaches and evidence-based Structured Literacy practices.

Participants will learn practical skills for coaching Structured Literacy instruction, designing impactful quality improvement cycles, and building literacy impact at your school site.

Key features of the academy include:

- 10 sessions via Zoom.
- 1.5-hour sessions filled with practical skill-building, resource dives, breakout discussions, role-plays, and current practice reflections.

Coaching Topics Include:

- dialogical coaching
- diving into literacy data
- using data to create student-focused SMART goals
- delivering intensive instruction in small groups.

Structured Literacy Topics Include: phonological awareness, phonics, syllable-type instruction, morphology, syntax, vocabulary, reading fluency, written expression, and comprehension.

When: 4:00 - 5:30 pm AST

- September 30
- October 14 & 28
- November 11 & 18
- December 2 & 16
- January 6, 13 & 27

Register here: <https://gleaneducation.typeform.com/CoachingSeries>

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

I absolutely loved each session and learned so much!
The training was so informative, and I appreciate all the knowledge and takeaways I gained.
This was a very practical training that will directly support my coaching!

-District Coach, Long Beach Unified School District

Verify CLSD District Contact

Click here to verify the [CLSD contact sheet](#) to ensure the right contacts are noted for your district.

Explore the CLSD Resource Website

The [CLSD website](#) provides educators with evidence-based literacy resources. The site is designed to help educators quickly locate instructional tools, professional learning, and classroom resources to support literacy instruction across all grade levels. Categories include:

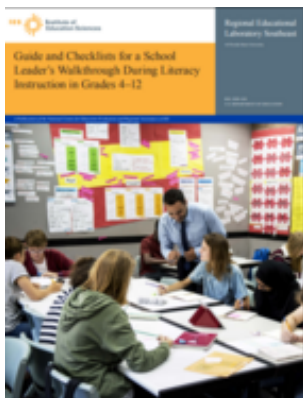
- All Ages
 - Birth–Kindergarten
 - Kindergarten–5th Grade
 - 6th–12th Grade
 - Writing
-

Resource Spotlight: Literacy Walkthrough Tools for School Leaders

Support instructional leadership with two free, evidence-based literacy walkthrough resources from the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). These practical resources are designed to support brief, focused classroom observations that strengthen literacy instruction across all grade levels.



[School Leader's Literacy Walkthrough \(K–3\)](#) – Provides observation tools and discussion guides to help school leaders identify research-based literacy practices during classroom walkthroughs.



[Guide and Checklists for a School Leader's Walkthrough During Literacy Instruction \(Grades 4–12\)](#) – Includes grade-band-specific checklists, pre- and post-walkthrough discussion guides, and observation tools to support meaningful feedback and continuous improvement in literacy instruction.

Supporting Writing Across Your District



— Inspire. Empower. Write. —

WRITE NOW

A Keys to Literacy Conference

In Partnership with Alaska DEED

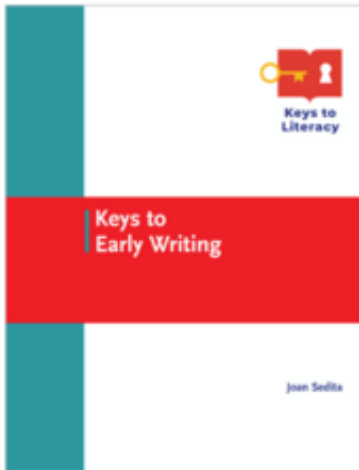
MISSED THE WRITE NOW CONFERENCE?
REGISTER NOW
TO ACCESS THE WEBINARS!

Write Now 2026 was a high-energy, full-day virtual conference designed to connect Alaska PreK-12 educators with leading voices in evidence-based writing instruction.

 **ACCESS THE WEBINARS**
Anytime. Anywhere.
Learn at your own pace.


EDUCATION
& EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Missed the conference! [Register](#) here to view the webinar recordings.



[Keys to Early Writing](#)

Keys to Early Writing is a K–2 course that builds foundational knowledge for teaching beginning writing instruction. It provides developmentally appropriate strategies that integrate into any curriculum and align with state standards. The course bridges framework to practice through The Writing Rope. Topics include writing basics, building a community of writers, writing process, narrative, informational, and opinion writing structures, drawing/labels/lists, sentence development, paragraph and source writing.

Participants may earn 1 CEU by completing the course and its implementation.

Ideal for self-paced learning, PLC collaboration, and staff professional learning.

Topics include:

- Writing basics⁴
 - Building a community of writers
 - Writing process
 - Writing craft & structures - narrative, informational, and opinion
 - First Steps - drawing/labels/lists
 - Syntax and sentence development
 - Paragraph writing
 - Writing from sources
-



[Keys to Content Writing](#)

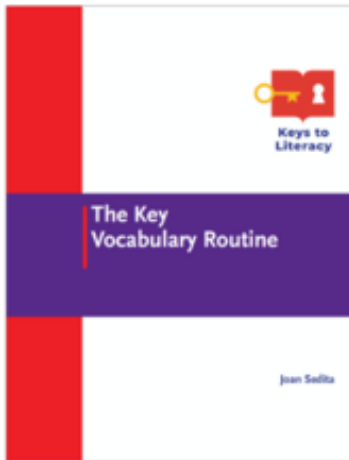
Keys to Content Writing is a professional development course for educators in grades 3–12 that integrates evidence-based writing instruction across content areas. Participants learn practical strategies to support learning to write and writing to learn through scaffolds, authentic writing tasks, and content-based instruction aligned to state literacy standards. Topics include writing basics, quick writes, summaries, writing from sources, and the writing process.

Participants may earn 1 CEU by completing the course and its implementation.

Ideal for self-paced learning, PLC collaboration, and staff professional learning.

Topics include:

- Writing Basics
 - Quick Writes
 - Sentences & Paragraphs
 - The Writing Process and scaffolds
 - Summary Writing
 - Three Types of Writing - Informational, Opinions/Argumentative, Narrative
 - Writing from Sources
-



[The Key Vocabulary Routine](#)

The Key Vocabulary Routine provides research-based instructional practices for teaching academic vocabulary in grades 4 –12 across all content areas. Teachers learn to use direct and indirect strategies embedded within existing curriculum materials to build word knowledge, deepen comprehension, and promote consistent instruction across grade levels. Routines include explicit vocabulary selection, semantic analysis, word-learning strategies, and student-friendly definitions that strengthen word consciousness and support transfer across subjects.

Participants may earn 1 CEU by completing the course and its implementation.

Ideal for self-paced learning, PLC collaboration, and staff professional learning.

Topics include:

- Vocabulary Basics
 - What is Key Vocabulary Routine?
 - Previewing Words
 - Teaching Targeted Words In-Depth
 - Selecting Words
 - Teaching Suggestions
 - Activities to Connect Words
 - Word Learning Strategies: Use of Context and Word Parts
 - Fostering Word Consciousness
 - Putting It All Together
-



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

Single Session:

- September 17 from 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
- September 18 from 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m

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 Professional Learning is available **AT NO COST** to Pre-K–6 Alaska educators and administrators



The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) is accepting registrations for its **Alaska LETRS Professional Learning Courses**. This state-funded training is available at no cost to pre-K–6 educators and administrators.

Meeting the educator endorsement requirements of the *Alaska Reads Act*, the Lexia® LETRS® Suite provides early childhood and elementary educators and administrators with deep knowledge of the science of reading:



Lexia® LETRS® for Elementary Educators

Equips teachers with essential knowledge and skills to master the fundamentals of literacy instruction required to apply and transform student learning.

Lexia® LETRS® for Early Childhood Educators

Empowers educators of the youngest learners with deep knowledge of effective strategies to prepare children for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Both course options are acceptable towards satisfying the Alaska Reads Act endorsements.

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

Partner-Provided Courses



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 asynchronous courses allow educators to engage at their own pace while building knowledge and skills in key areas such as reading, math, behavior, explicit instruction, and intervention systems. CEUs can be earned with these courses.

Available Courses:

- Behavior Supports for Intensive Intervention
- Demystifying the Science of Reading: Understanding the Reading Brain and the Structured Literacy Approach
- Features of Explicit Instruction
- Intensive Intervention in Reading

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

Reading Research & Resources

[The Essentials of Effective Writing Instruction](#)

K12 Coalition Authored by Joan Sedita

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

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